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- 56** Discover the cultural side of Nevada's entertainment capital, highlighted by the new Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas.

MOB TIES

- 66** Las Vegas' long history with organized crime is brought to light with the opening of The Mob Museum this February.

Cover Photo: Studio J Photography

The Mob Museum is located at 300 Stewart Avenue in downtown Las Vegas. The building was dedicated on November 27, 1933 as the city's first federal building.

Background: A boy marvels at the Columbian Mammoth exhibit at the new Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas.

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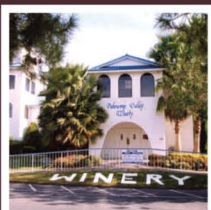
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Carson City, NV 89701-4291
775-687-5416 • 775-687-6159 (fax)
Subscriptions and Customer Service: 877-904-7953
E-mail: editor@nevadamagazine.com
Website: nevadamagazine.com

Publisher: JANET M. GEARY
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Art Director: TONY deRONNEBECK
Production Manager: SEAN NEBEKER
Production Artist: MELISSA LOOMIS
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For media kit, click on "Advertise" at nevadamagazine.com

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Nevada Magazine, a division of the Nevada Commission on Tourism, is self-funded and dependent on advertising and subscription revenue.

Submissions: Nevada Magazine assumes no responsibility for damage or loss of material submitted for publication. A stamped self-addressed envelope must be included.

Disclaimer: Advertisements in this publication do not constitute an offer for sale in states where prohibited or restricted by law.

Reprints: Contact the production department at 775-687-0606 or tony@nevadamagazine.com.

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Subscriptions/Customer Service: Write to Nevada Magazine Subscriptions, P.O. Box 11344, Saint Paul, MN 55111-0344, call 877-904-7953, DID # 651-251-9686, or visit nevadamagazine.com. Please allow at least six weeks for subscription fulfillment or change of address.

Nevada Magazine (ISSN 0199-1248) is published bimonthly by the State of Nevada at 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701-4291. Copyright © 2011 State of Nevada. Subscriptions are \$19.95 per year (\$29.95 international). Periodicals postage paid at Carson City, NV, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Nevada Magazine Subscriptions, P.O. Box 11344, Saint Paul, MN 55111-0344.



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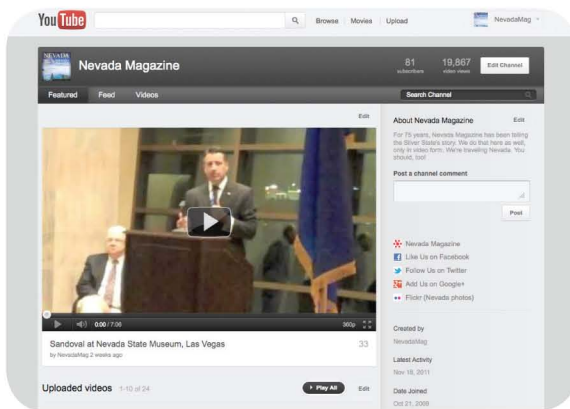
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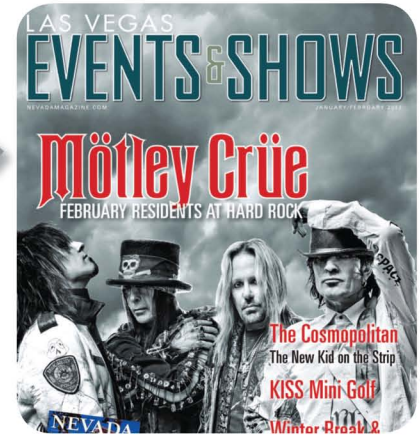
WEB EXTRAS

- ▶ Our associate editor competed in the inaugural **National Veterans Day Run** in Las Vegas—and won! By Charlie Johnston
- ▶ A recent transplant to **Hawthorne** gives 10 reasons why the western Nevada town is a great place to live. By Nona L. Carlon
- ▶ Delve into the rich history of **Virginia City**, on the National Register of Historic Places for good reason. By Carolyn Eichen



FEATURED VIDEO

Watch Governor Brian Sandoval's speech at the November 12 grand opening of the new Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas on *Nevada Magazine's* YouTube channel.



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The first Nevada Broadband Summit took place in Dayton on November 14. The event, called *Wired for Success*, focused on broadband expansion and the critical role technology will play in Nevada's economic future. Find out more, and get involved in your community, online.

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It's All Downtown

I don't mean to get Petula Clark's "Downtown" stuck in your head (you "Seinfeld" fans are already humming the lyrics), but exciting things are happening in downtown Las Vegas. And, no, I'm not talking about the Strip.

When former Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman took office in 1999, one of his primary goals was to make the city more of a cultural attraction. Mission accomplished, as this year a number of art and educational attractions will open near Fremont Street, what locals refer to as "Old Vegas." Goodman's wife, Carolyn, succeeded him as mayor last year, and he will be by her side to celebrate a number of openings and renovations that will reveal another side of Las Vegas, a sophisticated complement to the "What Happens Here, Stays Here" identity that permeates the city's reputation.

One of those attractions is The Mob Museum, which you will read about in this issue's feature story. One of the first things Goodman did as mayor was inquire about the former U.S. Post Office and federal building on Stewart Avenue. More than a decade later, the historic 1933 building is now home to The Mob Museum, which will open this Valentine's Day. Goodman gleamed like a proud papa during a November interview with us about the project.

The new museum is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what's on the horizon for downtown. Goodman is scheduled to open a steakhouse, Oscar's, in the recently renovated Plaza Hotel. The 41-year-old hotel, which anchors the popular Fremont Street Experience, boasts 10 new restaurants and bars and fully renovated rooms.

On March 10, the city will unveil its Smith Center for the Performing Arts, which is being billed as the centerpiece of cultural life in Las Vegas, offering a blend of performances by resident companies and touring attractions. The five-acre cultural campus, part of the 61-acre Symphony Park, will contain indoor and outdoor stages. Additionally, a new Discovery Children's Museum will open at Symphony Park later this year. The Smith Center stands out nobly among other new-ish buildings such as the World Market Center, Cleveland Clinic, and Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health.

In October, Fifth Street Gaming CEO Seth Schorr, who is overseeing the redevelopment of the historic downtown Lady Luck property, announced that the property has been renamed Downtown Grand. The removal of the historic Lady Luck neon



The Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge, which opened in late 2010, offers a spectacular view of Hoover Dam that wasn't previously available to the public.

sign marked the beginning of the property's transformation. Speaking of neon signs, still to come in mid-2012 is a new and improved Neon Museum visitor's center, housed in the shell (literally) of the former La Concha Motel. As well, the Las Vegas Shakespeare Company is in the midst of converting the former Reed Whipple Cultural Center into the Las Vegas Shakespeare Theatre.

This is not to mention the fascinating museums and educational institutions already existing in Southern Nevada, which you'll read about in this issue's other feature story. A nice steak dinner and a world-class show without ever having to take on the Strip? And an informative and educational experience to boot? It's happening in downtown Las Vegas.

Matthew B. Brown, Editor
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN

I just received my November/December 2011 *Nevada Magazine*, and you have taken me home again. I made my home in Fallon for 45 years and think of Nevada as my home state. For the past 26 years, I have lived in Gillette, Wyoming, and I have the beautiful Big Horn Mountains and the Black Hills in both directions.

However, I don't think anything can replace the Sierra Nevada or the wonderful deserts in Nevada.

Louise Hickey, Gillette, Wyoming

A GREAT EVENT

I've been enjoying *Nevada Magazine* for years. Keep up the good work. I just finished the November/December 2011 issue, and, in the article "Reno-Sparks by the Dozen," I didn't notice any mention of the Great Italian Festival. Why was that? The attendance is always substantial.

Don Junell, Reno

Thanks, Don. Unfortunately we just can't cover them all. We urge readers to find out more about the event at eldoradoreno.com.

EDITOR

CALENDAR COMPLIMENTS

I just got the 2012 Nevada Historical Calendar. As usual, it looks great. Your staff has done a great job. I wasn't going to peek at the pictures until each month came, but I couldn't resist. I really like the little bits of Nevada trivia at the beginning and end of each month. I don't recall that from previous years. Thanks again!

Wayne J. Thorley,

Legislative Counsel Bureau



CORRECTION

The Helen Stewart photographs, and the sculptures themselves, on page 8 of the November/December 2011 issue should have been credited to Benjamin Victor (benjaminvictor.com).

WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

Write to editor@nevadamagazine.com or via mail at 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701. You can also comment on stories and read more letters at nevadamagazine.com. Letters and comments are subject to editing.

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Andromnicus: That's my grandpa!—[Flickr](#), commenting on the August 1992 cover, featuring Lee Hobold at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City.

Bureau of Land Management - Nevada: Great article in Nevada Magazine highlighting some of Nevada's ghost towns. Rhyolite, the only one managed by BLM, made it to the top of the list.—[Facebook](#)

RickM443: Somehow or another I'm going to be a featured photographer for @Nevada_Magazine. That's my next goal.—[Twitter](#)

CONTRIBUTORS

GREG McFARLANE



A Canadian transplant, Greg McFarlane settled in the Las Vegas Valley 16 years ago. He's traveled from Denio to Laughlin, and just about everywhere in between, always looking to unearth the idiosyncratic

and the irregular. He says, "If I could create a state from scratch, it'd have a sparse population, an arid climate, endless mountains, and thousands of fascinating places laying dormant, just waiting to be discovered. Fortunately, Nevada already exists." On most weekends, McFarlane, his notebook, and his steadfast Ford Explorer can be found somewhere along the state's myriad miles of wide-open roads.

■ PG. 18

CYNDI SOUZA



This Colorado native has lived in Nevada for more than 20 years, both in Las Vegas and Amargosa Valley. It wasn't until recently when Souza lost her corporate job and ended up working at Ash

Meadows National Wildlife Refuge that she was able to pursue her true passions: wildlife, photography, and writing. "I was devastated when I lost my corporate job, but now I realize it was the beginning of something I had always wanted to do...I just didn't know it," says Souza, who writes about and photographs Ash Meadows for this issue.

■ PG. 26

ARLENE M. ECK



Arlene Eck has been a foodie since the tender age of 12, when her mother finally let her make tortillas, pies, and breads by herself. She adores her husband, partially because he convinced her

that brownies are not, in fact, a suitable dinner choice. And, he took her to Paris. She currently lives in Reno with her husband and four children. Writing about food is simply another way for her to experience and share her love of food with others. For this issue, she searched Reno and Sparks for the perfect bakery.

■ PG. 30





Nevada Northern Railway, Ely

MATTHEW B. BROWN



KNOW YOUR NEVADA

Dear Friends,

This edition of *Nevada Magazine* explores the vast and varied museums of Southern Nevada.

A visitor can study the rich history of the Silver State firsthand at seven state museums and more than 100 private museums. Pioneer history, Native American history, natural history, art, and transportation are all showcased.

State Railroad Museums in Boulder City, Carson City, and Ely let passengers explore Nevada's railroad and mining heritage. Operating trains are available at all three, while Ely's Nevada Northern Railway lets you step back in time to 1907 with its fully restored depot.

A decade in the making, the new Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas at Springs Preserve is 70,000 square feet and chock full of everything Nevada. Its state-of-the-art displays and exhibits provide visitors with everything from the unique natural history of Nevada to the industries and personalities that make the state great.

The Lost City Museum in Overton operates on an actual prehistoric site. Archeologists have worked for decades to uncover the past hidden beneath the Mojave Desert. Visitors learn firsthand about inhabitants of Nevada dating to about 300 B.C.



Lt. Gov. Brian K. Krolicki

The Nevada Historical Society in Reno is the state's oldest museum. In addition to permanent exhibits depicting life in the Silver State and temporary exhibits that include Basque Aspen Art Rubbings, the Historical Society also sports a research library with an extensive collection of documents and photographs.

Families will enjoy the Lied Discovery Children's Museum in Las Vegas, Reno's Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum, and the Children's Museum of Northern Nevada in Carson City.

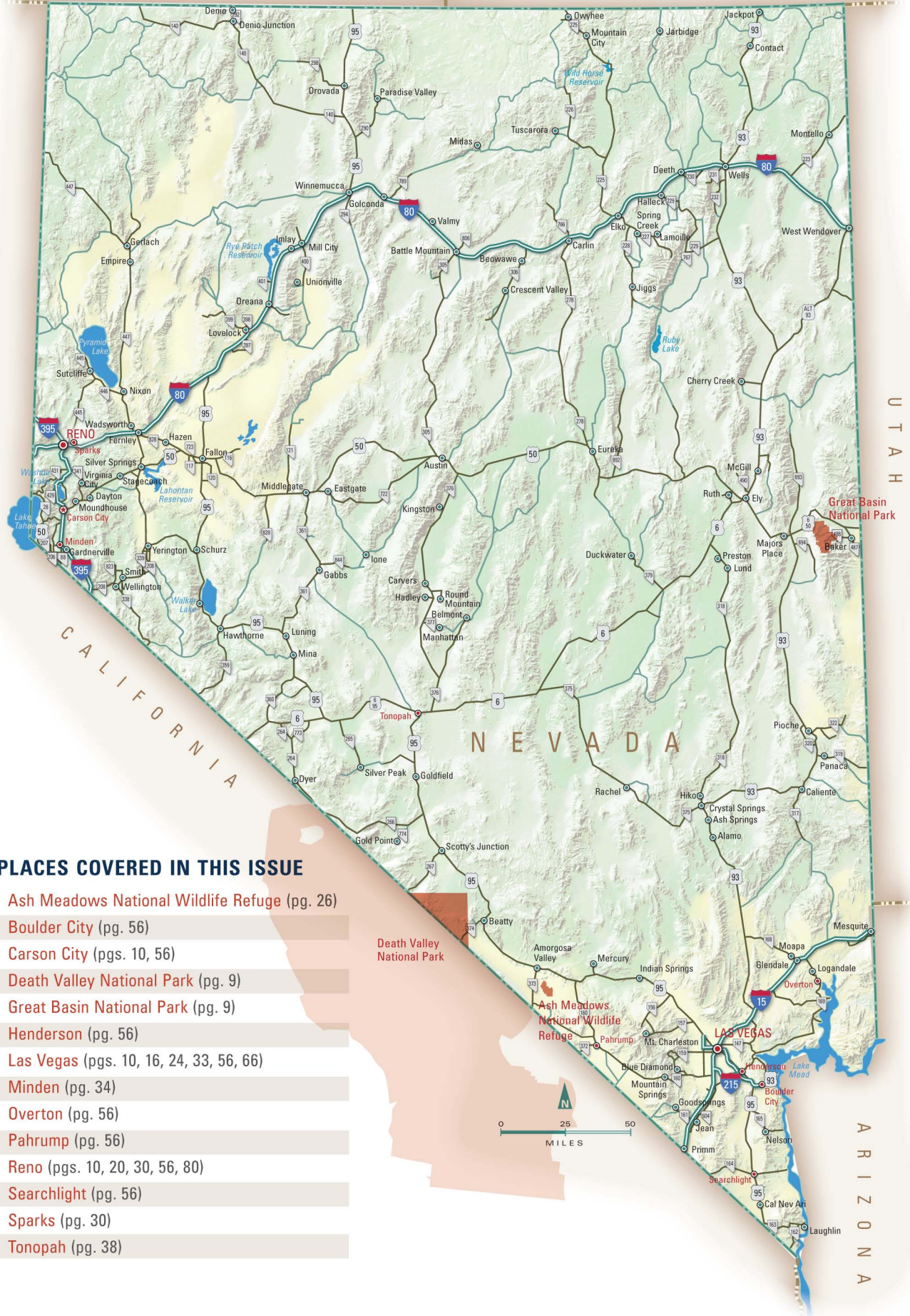
For fine art options, visitors to Southern or Northern Nevada have a wide array of options. The Fine Art Gallery at Bellagio in Las Vegas has permanent and temporary exhibits that should not be missed. The Nevada Museum of Art in Reno, which celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2011, has been accredited by the American Association of Museums—a distinction only five percent of the nation's museums can claim.

What other state can boast museums devoted to atomic testing (Atomic Testing Museum, Las Vegas), mobsters (The Mob Museum, Las Vegas), and gambling (Nevada Gambling Museum, Virginia City)? Fascinating, fun, and informative, the museums of Nevada have something to offer everyone.

Brian K. Krolicki

Lieutenant Governor

Chairman — Nevada Commission on Tourism



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CHARLIE JOHNSTON



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To encourage Americans to explore the country's natural beauty, rich history, and culture, the National Park Service will waive admission fees on 17 days in 2012. The fee-free dates are January 14-16, April 21-29, June 9, September 29, and November 10-12. More information is available at nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm.

Great Basin National Park, in eastern Nevada, is the only national park solely in the Silver State. The stalactites and stalagmites of Lehman Caves (tours available year round) are the vastly underrated park's top attraction. The largest national park outside of Alaska, western Nevada's Death Valley National Park sits mostly within California—the northeastern corner is in Nevada. The mysterious moving rocks of off-the-beaten-path Racetrack Valley (above) are one of the park's many wonders. Beatty and Pahrump are the park's Nevada gateways.

Up Front

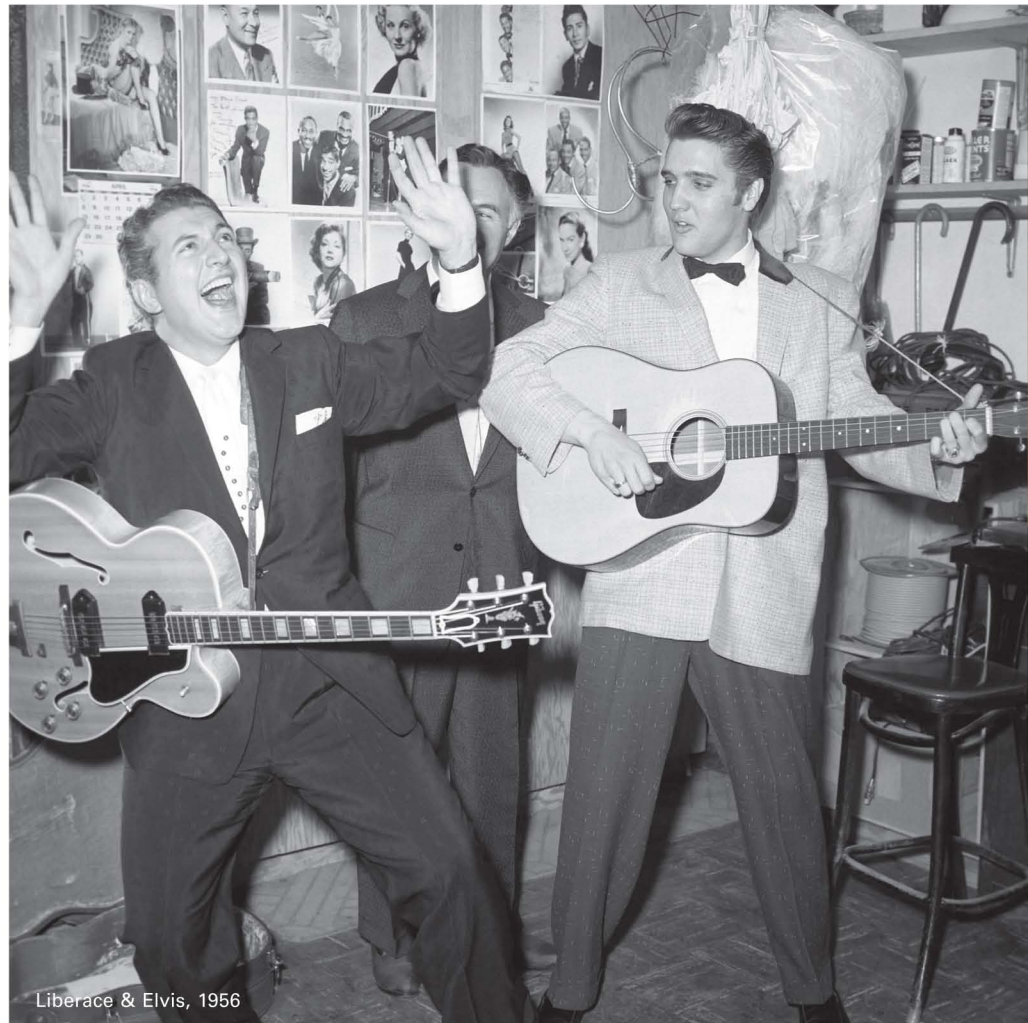


◆ In November, federal paleontologists confirmed Nevada's first official record of **dinosaur tracks**. Visitors to **Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area** outside of Las Vegas stumbled upon the dozens of 190-million-year-old tracks, believed to be those of small, meat-eating dinosaurs—the exact species is yet to be determined. redrockcanyonlv.org, 702-515-5350

◆ One of the Strip's longest-lived, most recognizable resorts, **Flamingo Las Vegas**, unveils more than 2,300 refurbished guest rooms starting January 2. The contemporary accommodations feature pillow-top mattresses, chaise lounges, 32-inch plasma-screen TVs, and vintage artwork. flamingolasvegas.com, 888-902-9929



◆ Atlantis Casino Resort Spa CEO **John Farahi** (pictured above at right with Lieutenant Governor Brian Krolicki) was given the prestigious **Hotelier of the Year Award** for 2011. President and CEO of the Nevada Hotel & Lodging Association, Van Heffner, cited Farahi's "lifetime commitment to professionalism and dedication to high standards." atlantiscasino.com, 800-723-6500



Liberace & Elvis, 1956

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ANNIVERSARY

Las Vegas News Bureau Celebrates 65 Years in 2012

Born as the Desert Sea News Bureau in 1947 and renamed in '49, the Las Vegas News Bureau has spent nearly two-thirds of a century making Las Vegas a household name. Needless to say, it has been successful. The city's universal recognition is thanks, in large part, to the bureau's saturation of national media with photos and stories promoting the good times and top-name performers that were and are hallmarks of Las Vegas. In 1957 alone, the bureau had its hand in more than 15,000 photos and stories published in magazines and newspapers around the country. An agency of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority since 1992, the bureau continues its 65-year mission through the distribution of photos to news outlets, wire services, travel agents, and conventions. lvcva.com



Folies Bergère, 1972

LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU



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PHILANTHROPY

Reno Resorts Lend Helping Hand to Fire Victims

Following the November 18, 2011 Caughlin Fire in southwest Reno—likely the most costly fire to impact the city in its more than 140-year history—local resorts and businesses opened their hearts and doors with free meals for disaster relief workers and free and drastically discounted rooms rates for evacuees. Harrah's Reno provided 1,000 lunches to relief workers and discounted rooms to evacuees; Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Club Cal Neva, Peppermill Resort Spa Casino, and Siena Hotel Spa Casino provided free rooms to families who lost their homes and discounted accommodations to evacuees; and Eldorado Hotel Casino, John Ascuaga's Nugget, and Silver Legacy Casino Resort also offered discounted rooms to displaced families. Local and state officials commended emergency workers and the community at large for their hard work and kindness in the face of the devastating disaster.

RURAL NEVADA

Nearly \$500,000 in Grants Awarded by Nevada Commission on Tourism

One of the many functions of the Nevada Commission on Tourism is to assist in promoting rural communities and organizations around the state by way of its marketing grants program. "The grant program is a great example of room-tax dollars being reinvested in the economy to generate more tourism," says Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs Director Claudia Vecchio. Among the many November 2011 grants are \$15,000 to the City of West Wendover to promote the destination in Canada and the Northwest, \$12,000 to Nevada Silver Trails to redesign the territory's website and promote geocaching in south-central Nevada, and \$10,000 to the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority to promote sports tourism in the Lake Tahoe region. travelnevada.com, 800-NEVADA-8

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NEVADA news

◆ **Zach's Lucky Spur Saloon** in Kingston, about 30 miles south of Austin off State Route 376, was named one of the 20 best bars in America in the November 2011 issue of *Men's Health* magazine. The watering hole was called the "best bar in the middle of nowhere" and lauded for its Old West atmosphere, mountain views, and affordable refreshments. **775-964-2000**

◆ A five-acre array of **photovoltaic solar panels** was completed last fall at Carson High School in Carson City, the last in a Hamilton Solar project that installed nearly 10,000 panels at five schools throughout the Carson City School District. According to Mark Korinek, operations manager for the district, the panels are expected to save Carson City schools about \$400,000 annually. **hamiltonsolamevada.com, 775-747-6000**

◆ Thanks to donations from the community following the cut of a \$140,000 state grant, the **Sparks Cultural Center** at the Sparks Heritage Museum opened in November. The center houses various exhibits and is available for special events. **sparksmuseum.org, 775-355-1144**

◆ The Nevada State Office of Energy was recently awarded a \$765,000 grant for its **Nevada Rooftop Solar Initiative**. The goal of the program is to have rooftop solar installations on at least five percent of Nevada homes and businesses by 2020. The award comes on the heels of a 2010 \$5-million Home Energy Fitness Campaign grant. **energy.state.nv.us, 775-687-1850**



RESTORATION

Historic Homestead Rehabilitated

Lincoln County's Griswold Cabins served as the winter headquarters for one of Nevada's largest 19th- and early 20th-century sheep-raising operations. The Griswold family's significance to Nevada far eclipses sheep ranching. The eldest son, Morley, served two terms as the state's lieutenant governor in the 1920s and '30s and was made acting governor in 1934 following the death of Governor Fred Balazar. The younger Griswolds, Chauncey Jr. and Gordon, both played substantial roles in national and state agriculture. The historic cabins that once served the important Nevada family were restored in 2010 in a joint effort by the Bureau of Land Management's Ely District staff and a crew from North Cascades National Park. The site is easily accessed from the Silver State OHV Trail and U.S. Highway 93, and a nearby kiosk provides information about the cabins and a map of the trail. **blm.gov, 775-289-1860**

DINING

Pairing Dinners at Atlantis Feature Fine Food and Drink

Beverage selection is an often overlooked part of an outstanding and memorable meal. At Pairing Dinners at Reno's Atlantis Casino Resort Spa's Bistro Napa and Steakhouse, drinks get as much attention as food and are even incorporated into the cuisine. **atlantiscasino.com/dining, 775-824-4411**

2012 PAIRING DINNERS LINEUP

Thursday, January 26: Silver Oak Winery (BN)

Thursday, February 9: Schramsburg Cellars wines (SH)

Thursday, March 29: Justin Winery (BN)

May: Bacardi Rum (BN)

July: Patrón Tequila (BN)

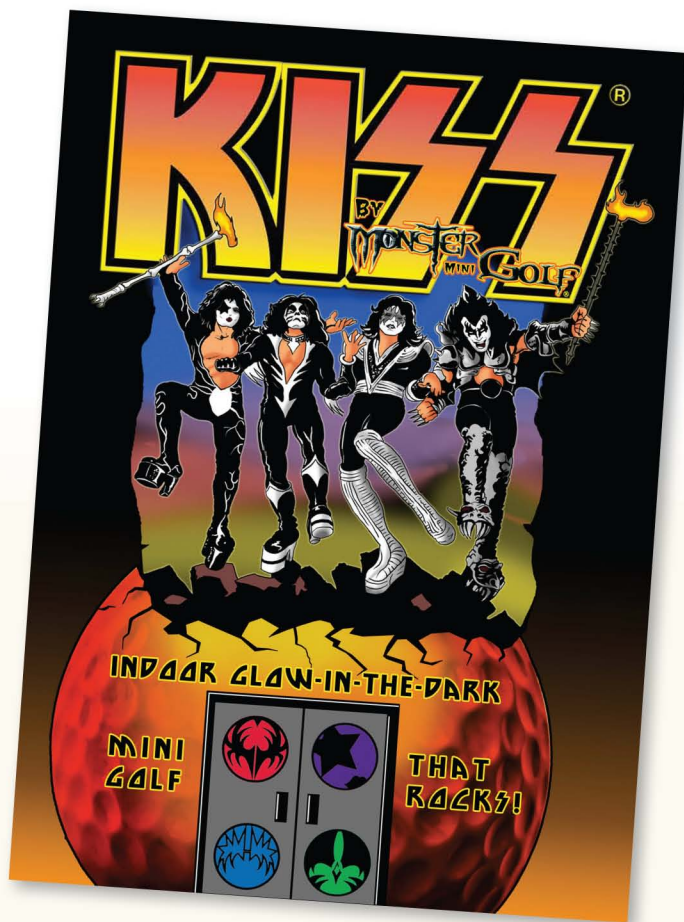
August: Far Niente and Nickel & Nickel Wineries (SH)

September: Samuel Adams Beer (BN)

October: Crown Royal Whisky (BN)

Note: BN = Bistro Napa; SH = Steakhouse





ENTERTAINMENT

Rock and Roll (and Mini Golf) All Nite in Las Vegas

The rock 'n' roll-themed amusement attraction KISS By Monster Mini Golf is set to open early this year near the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. The main feature of the complex is an indoor glow-in-the-dark 18-hole miniature golf course. Other offerings inspired by the famous hard-rock band include a state-of-the-art arcade, the "Hotter Than Hell" Wedding Chapel, "Rock and Roll All Nite" Café, VIP and special-event rooms, the KISS Gallery, and the largest KISS gift shop in the world. "It is a great honor to work with KISS, who are personal favorites of mines," says Monster Mini Golf founder Christina Vitagliano.

monsterminigolf.com/kiss, 401-454-8100



◆ The Colorado River front north of Laughlin was recently transformed into a recreational area with walking paths, trails, trailheads, and a day-use park below Davis Dam. The \$35 million Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act-funded **Heritage Greenway Trails System**, also known as the North Reach Project, is expected to open in January. clarkcountynv.gov, 702-455-0000

◆ ESPN Radio 1100 AM and 98.9 FM recently announced The **DeMarco Murray Show**. A Las Vegas local and Bishop Gorman High School graduate, he was drafted from the University of Oklahoma to play running back for the Dallas Cowboys. His "sports talk from an athlete's perspective" show airs Tuesdays from 4 – 5 p.m. espn.go.com/espnradio

◆ **The Nevada Investment and Trade Revenue Opportunities** (NITRO) initiative, recently introduced, is a function of the Nevada Office of Economic Development aimed at helping Nevada small businesses market their products internationally through partnership funds and access to global resources. nitro.nv.gov

2 GREAT ADVENTURES



Tickets: 866-218-4935

This spirited and spooky ghost tour will take you to the haunting grounds of "Bugsy" Siegel, Liberace, Redd Foxx and Elvis Presley. A guided tour, featuring Sin City's darkest Ghostly Secrets.

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HISTORY

McKeen Motor Car Set for National Recognition

One of the most prized possessions of the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City is its early 20th century McKeen Motor Car No. 22, a rare and historically significant example of one of the earliest efforts to use internal combustion engines and streamlined design for rail travel. The McKeen Car served on the Virginia and Truckee Railway until being retired in 1945. Already listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is being strongly considered for National Historic Landmark status—a prestigious title granted by the National Parks System Service. “I couldn’t be more delighted,” says Peter Barton, administrator for the Nevada Division of Museums and History. “Listing of the McKeen Car will boost our efforts to gain national recognition for this important resource.”

Final approval should occur sometime this year. museums.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-6953



Click on “Trains Keep A Rollin’” at nevadamagazine.com to learn more about train attractions in Nevada.

EXHIBIT

American Indian Exhibit Lands at Reno-Tahoe International Airport



CHARLIE JOHNSTON

The Connector

Collections Gallery between the B and C gates security checkpoints at Reno-Tahoe International Airport features an American Indian Exhibit until January 22. The display is part of the Nevada Arts Council’s “What Continues the Dream” traveling exhibit and includes photos of powwow dancers, a Nevada Indian Territory graphic display, and hand-crafted cultural objects provided by the Nevada Indian Commission.

nic.nv.gov
nevadaculture.org,
nevadaindianterritory.com



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MARK TERRELL

POETRY

A Horse in Sheep's Clothing

BY GAYLE CASE

On Nevada's plains where it seldom rains
And the breeze causes trees to uproot,
There's local word of a mustang herd
And a horse in a wooly suit.

It seems, they say, on a winter's day,
When the pogo nip was dense,
A lamb went astray, meandered away
Beneath a busted fence.

As she slid around on the frozen ground,
Just lookin' to get warm,
She ran right smack into a pack
Of mustangs in the storm.

In the knifelike slice of the twilight ice
The poor lamb stumbled upon
A curled up ball, a colt so small
That he was dang near gone.

The brave lamb knew just what to do
To save this newfound friend.
And wrapped him snug in a sheepskin rug
'Til night blew away with the wind.

In the light of day, or so they say,
The herd moved on to graze
The lamb tagged along, and right or wrong,
With the wild-horse herd, she stays.

The story's true. Perhaps that ewe
Has a crush on the mustang king
You could say that she turned out to be
A horse in sheep's clothing.



To the Neon Gods They Made

A collection of photographs by
Michael Monson and Tony Flanagan

Buildings in various stages of construction are a common sight in Las Vegas. They represent the promise that soon there will be a new glittering peak on an ever-sprawling skyline. However, for many of these stalled projects, there are no grand openings planned in the foreseeable future.

Photographing these projects was our way of breathing life back into these promises of progress. We photographed these structures at night, when Las Vegas' architecture is most alive, and, by using the ambient glow of our vibrant city and HDR (high dynamic range) imaging, we were able to bring neon radiance to these dim faces that may never be given the opportunity to shine for themselves.

Photos: The fate of the empty Harmon Hotel (inset) at CityCenter is in limbo, but likely will be demolished due to safety concerns. Work on the Vantage Lofts in Henderson halted in 2008 due to lack of funding.

WORTH A VISIT

"To the Neon Gods They Made" exhibit
Winchester Cultural Center Gallery, thru Jan. 27
3130 S. McLeod Dr., Las Vegas
702-455-7340

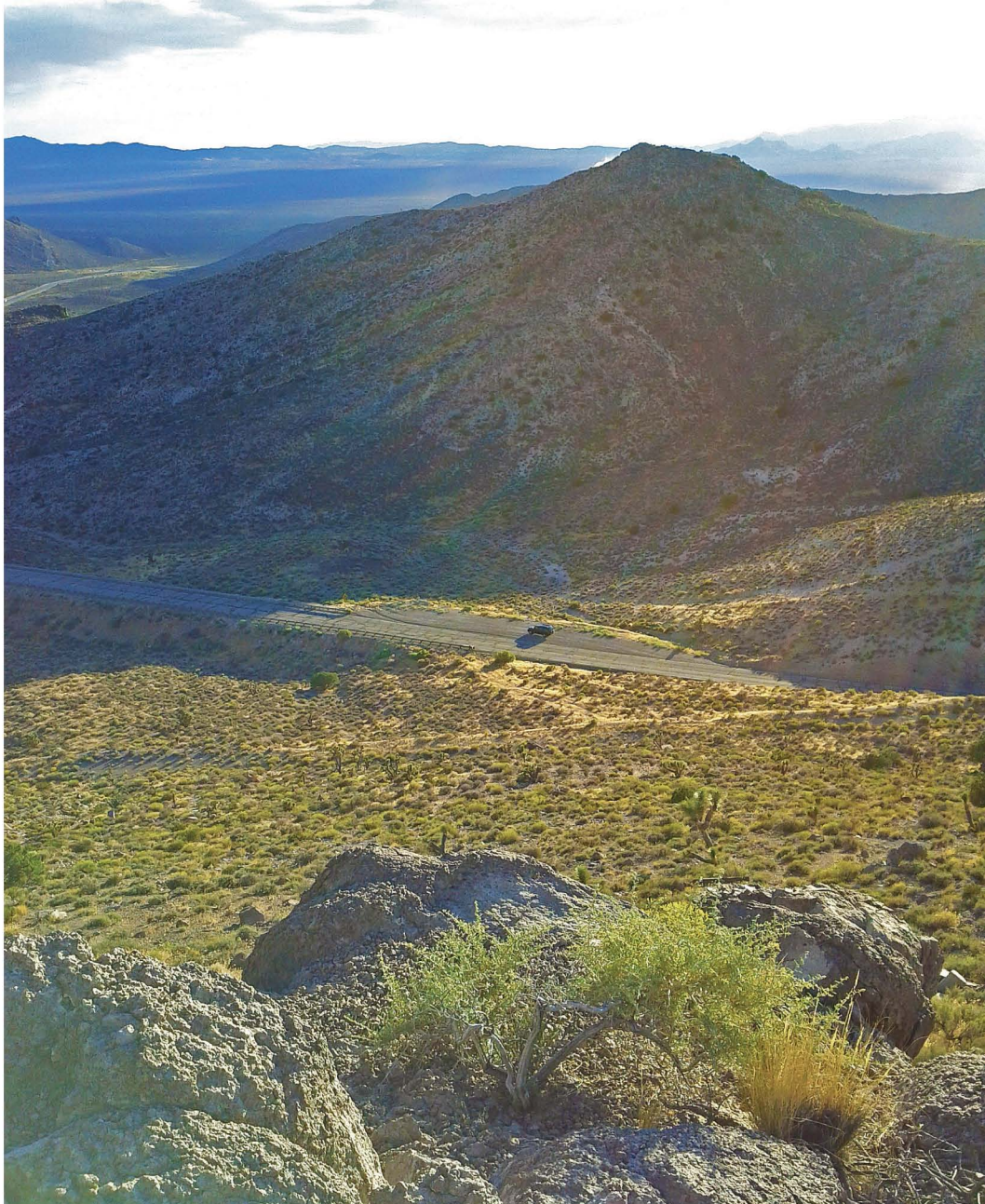


Nevada Oddities



Glendenning Monument

On a recent trek on State Route 375 (the Extraterrestrial Highway), Nevada traveler Greg McFarlane noticed an unnatural stone structure, stopped the car, and took a hike. He discovered a monument dedicated on March 21, 1938 to Dr. M.L. Glendenning. The inscription waxes biblically about an "Order of Aaron"—a Christian sect founded by Glendenning in Utah in 1942.



Note: McFarlane says the above monument is in the East Pahrangat Range, about 32 miles east of Rachel.



The Idiot Tree

"South of West Wendover on Alternate U.S. 93, there's something called The Idiot Tree," McFarlane says. "It's similar to [Highway 50's] shoe tree (R.I.P.), but with hats instead of shoes." Who knew? Another fun Nevada roadside attraction to hang your hat on.

PHOTOS BY GREG MCFARLANE



Seven Canyons Ranch

"I took some photos there while doing a [high school] senior portrait session," says Dini Esplin of Spring Creek. "It was so beautiful." The ranch, near Lamoille, is privately owned.

PHOTO BY DINI ESPLIN See more of Esplin's work at diniseye.com.

ART DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Each issue, Art Director Tony deRonnebeck will choose a photo from our Nevada Photographers Facebook Group to be showcased on this page.



Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area

This mysterious—and rare—Mojave Desert winter scene was captured in February of last year west of Las Vegas. Luckily for Rose, who lives in Henderson, he didn't have to travel far to get there.

PHOTO BY WADE ROSE

See more of Rose's work at [flickr.com/people/chevman468](https://www.flickr.com/people/chevman468).

GROUP CHOICE

Each issue, our Nevada Photographers Facebook Group votes for their favorite photo out of three selected by the *Nevada Magazine* production staff.



CommRow

Reno's newest resort brings recreation to new heights.

STORY & PHOTOS BY CHARLIE JOHNSTON

"Woohoo! Yeah! You can do it!" A litany of encouragements emanate from a passing car of teenagers as I scale the outdoor façade of downtown Reno's CommRow on a quiet Thursday afternoon. Their support is no match for the three-foot overhang I am awkwardly trying to negotiate. My grip fails, and in a split second I'm helplessly dangling 70-something feet above Virginia Street. Back on terra firma after a short rope descent, I remark about the uniqueness of a climbing venue where passing motorists can shout to climbers. My climbing partner, Karl Fendelander, tells me I should witness the exuberance of weekend crowds.



Greek flare of Lemóni Mediterranean Grill

Lemóni Mediterranean Grill's wares are so beautiful they decided to put the kitchen on display so guests can watch as chefs slice, dice, and flambé their meals. Traditional lamb gyros are overflowing with juicy, flavorful meat carved from a vertical rotisserie. Greek fries, sprinkled with dill and lemon juice and served with a side of Greek tzatziki sauce, will change everything you think you know about fried potatoes.

Fendelander, digital media and general marketing manager for the property and an avid climber, is doubly invested in downtown Reno's newest attraction, the non-gaming, non-smoking, activity-oriented CommRow. With a professional background in online marketing and a 10-year passion for climbing, Fendelander and CommRow—home to the world's tallest artificial climbing wall—are a perfect fit. "I used to feel a disconnect between my personal and professional lives," he says. "I knew immediately I wanted [CommRow] to succeed."

Given the tools at the resort's disposal, that success seems very likely. In addition to the state-of-the-art 164-foot exterior climbing wall, CommRow also boasts an indoor bouldering gym that rivals the best in the world and bars, concert venues, and dining options to compete with downtown Reno's finest.

The second-floor bouldering gym, Base Camp, was designed by some of the country's top climbers and Vertical Solutions, an innovator in artificial climbing wall designs. Vertical Solutions also built the outdoor wall that utilizes dual density holds made to withstand varying weather and allow the wall to remain open throughout the year. "It's going to be cold and occasionally, it's going to snow," Fendelander says. "It was built for that."

First-time climber Jessee Walsh of Reno describes Base Camp as "just awesome" and is noticeably pleased to learn that one-year passes for college students are \$149 (rates range from \$7 for an adult night pass to \$350 for an annual family pass). And while folks such as Walsh, Fendelander, and myself fit the typical active 20- to 30-something demographic you might expect to find at a bouldering

FOR MORE INFORMATION

255 N. Virginia St.
Reno, NV 89501
commrow.com



Qué Taquitos y Gorditas



CommRow's climbing wall overlooks Virginia Street and the Reno Arch. At 164 feet, it is the tallest artificial climbing wall in the world and draws substantial crowds of onlookers.

gym, Fendelander is quick to point out that, since CommRow opened in October 2011, they have seen every description of person at Base Camp, including an 80-year-old man who gushed over the advances in climbing since he last tried his hand at the sport in the 1940s. "I love seeing the little kids," Fendelander says. "They scramble up [the indoor bouldering walls] with no fear, drop like rocks, then go right back up again."

Up Body Fuels, a juice bar specializing in power foods, juices, and smoothies, is steps from Base Camp and offers nutritious treats to energize a day of conquering bouldering problems. Also climbing gym-adjacent and named for one of the most difficult conceivable problems in bouldering, V15 bar is the perfect spot to enjoy a post-climb refreshment while cheering on other climbers or to sip an adult beverage on the outdoor deck overlooking downtown Reno.

For those disinclined to climb, the first floor of CommRow is best described as an upscale trendy take on food courts, where trays of room-temperature mystery food slopped onto plates by unenthusiastic teenagers are replaced with mouthwatering gastronomic creations meticulously prepared by real chefs, and nondescript fountain drinks and artificial shakes are supplanted by inspired cocktails and hard-to-find Mexican beers.

Checkout, just inside the Virginia Street entrance, offers coffees, teas, desserts, and an honor library where guests are invited to trade and read used books. People in the know suggest ducking into the coffee joint's antique phone booth to make a call on your cell phone if the party outside is too loud to hear your conversation.

Directly across the main floor, Twisted Sweet Treats is the

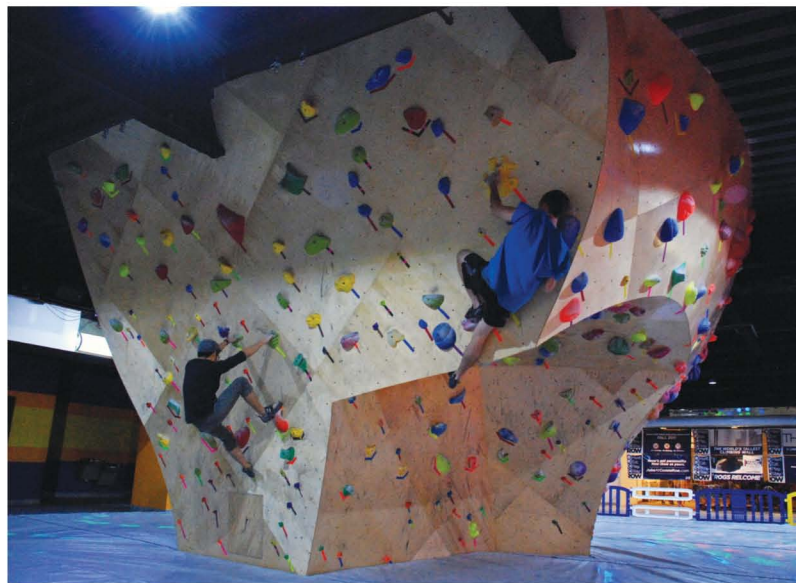
"I love seeing the little kids. They scramble up [the indoor bouldering walls] with no fear, drop like rocks, then go right back up again."

Karl Fendelander

sugar-high ying to Checkout's caffeine-rush yang, where soft-serve ice cream with mountains of toppings, candy by the pound, and popcorn bring out the kid in everyone.

Coffee and sweets are great, but only real food can sustain an entire CommRow adventure. The center of the property's main floor takes an affordable (no dish costs more than \$10) culinary world tour to provide fresh market-inspired Mexican, Chicago-style street vendor grub, and zesty Mediterranean.

Qué Taquitos y Gorditas specializes in mini tacos, fresh salsa and guacamole, made-to-order gorditas, and homemade chips. Vegetarian corn mini tacos are as tempting as the chicken, beef, pork, and shrimp choices, and cheese- and salsa-topped crispy fried gorditas steam with perfectly spiced fillings.



Base Camp, CommRow's second-floor bouldering gym, was designed in part by some of the best climbers in the country and employs a state-of-the-art landing pad that ensures falls will hurt only egos.



Lovely Libations

Under the expert stewardship of Melissa Ollua—who also happens to make a phenomenal lavender margarita that is hands down the best in Reno—Órale features more than 100 tequilas and rejects pre-made mixes in what CommRow calls its Church of Agave.

Chic, sexy TarTarBar specializes in sake, sparkling wines, and ultra-modern cocktails shaken with top-shelf vodkas and gins. Crisp chilled ceviches, tartares, and oysters up the elegance ante at CommRow's date-night destination.



Classically inspired cocktails, a rich mahogany bar, and tie-and-vest-wearing bartenders lend to Lucky Lane Lounge's Prohibition-era speakeasy ambience.

Da Stand Italian Beefs is named for the only way true Chicagoans will eat their Italian beef and sausage sandwiches: standing. The chest-high counter requires patrons to take "da stance"—and saves their laps from copious amounts of delicious drippings—as they sink their teeth into the eatery's signature sandwich, a sweet pepper- and sausage-topped Italian beef drenched in savory au jus gravy.

Drinking on CommRow's ground level doesn't exactly reach the bar set by the property's dining options—it reaches it four times over with Centric Cabaret, Lucky Lane Lounge, Órale Tequileria, and TarTarBar Tartares & Libations. The 150-person-capacity Centric serves as the lobby bar for the upcoming HANG Hotel—set for an April opening—and showcases local talent on its intimate stage. Lucky Lane takes a cue from Prohibition-era speakeasies with a mahogany bar, expansive whiskey selection, and new-school twists on old-school cocktails.

The resort's answer to nightclubs is the third-floor Cargo, which it bills as hosting "events outside the box." The 500-plus-person-capacity venue features a full bar, top-quality live music and special events by night, and core fitness, yoga, and other classes by day. The Hold, also on the third level, provides another bar, overflow space for concerts and events

at Cargo, and seating for private parties of more than 150 people.

Visitors to CommRow needn't worry about ditching their four-legged friends at home. Reno's hippest canine club, Doggie Lounge, lets pups socialize while people fetch an order of Greek fries.

No one would fault downtown Reno's hippest new attraction if it stopped at its current lineup. But what visitors see today is only the beginning. In addition to HANG Hotel, an outdoor Adventure Deck promises to add to Base Camp's already impressive offerings. HANG proudly boasts that its no-frills rooms will sport "the ugliest wallpaper in town" amid top-of-the-line bedding, linens, and bathrooms. As CommRow's Communications Director Natasha Bourlin puts it, the people who stay at the hotel will stay for the vibe of the whole resort, not to hole up in their rooms.

The Adventure Deck, set to open in the summer atop CommRow's six-story parking garage, will feature an outdoor bouldering gym, BMX park, skate park, and seasonal restaurants. There have been rumors about an eventual zipline in the vicinity of the Adventure Deck, the climbing wall deck, and the ReTrac courtyard between Commercial Row and Third Street, but you didn't hear that from me. ▀



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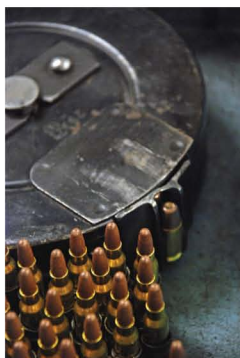
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The Gun Store

Let some of the rarest firearms in the country “run” in Las Vegas.

STORY & PHOTOS BY CHARLIE JOHNSTON

As *Nevada Magazine* Editor Matthew B. Brown squeezes the trigger of his .223-caliber M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, a rapid spray of bullets slices through a zombie clown poster about 20 yards away. He fires again, and the devilish ghoul is delivered another barrage of searing lead. “Let it run!” shouts our range instructor and weapons expert, Jeff Sirilla. With another squeeze the clip is empty, and the zombie clown is finished.

One of the most unique off-Strip attractions in Las Vegas, The Gun Store opened in 1988 and has since become the most popular gun outlet in Nevada. The draw? At The Gun Store, people don’t just buy and sell firearms—although the retail side of the business is indeed booming—they try them out at the indoor range. Visitors choose between nearly 50

hard-to-find weapons, from Dirty Harry’s .44-caliber Remington Magnum to a Glock 17 nine-millimeter handgun and AK-47s to the same machine gun currently used by U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, the \$100,000 M249 SAW that Brown fired.

The Gun Store offers individual gun rentals that include from five to 50 rounds depending on the type of gun and a target; themed packages that include multiple weapons, targets, T-shirts, and souvenir gift bags; and VIP experiences on a private range. The Shoot in The Dark Package incorporates tactical flashlights, laser sights, and night vision.

Expert employees, unparalleled attention to safety, and Nevada’s lenient gun laws allow The Gun Store to proudly exclaim “Try One!” in bright advertisements around the city that draw people from all walks of life. “We get bachelor parties, bachelorette parties, kids...just about everyone,” says The Gun

FOR MORE INFORMATION

2900 E. Tropicana Ave.,
Las Vegas, NV 89121
thegunstorelasvegas.com
702-454-1110

WORTH A LISTEN

Hear about guns, politics, and self-defense Sundays from 5-7 p.m. during “Fired Up With Bob Irwin” on 100.5 FM KXNT Las Vegas or online at firedupwithbob.com.

Irwin’s son and co-owner/COO of The Gun Store, Chris Irwin, hosts “The Gun Store Radio Show” Wednesdays from 4-5 p.m. on 970 AM KNUU Las Vegas and online at 970knuu.com/listen.htm.

Guests at The Gun Store in Las Vegas can choose from about 50 pistols, rifles, shotguns, and machine guns lining the back wall of the waiting room. They can also choose from numerous interesting and comical targets ranging from stereotypical terrorist to demented axe-wielding clown.





Store's marketing and advertising director, Emily Miller. Lines of patrons snaking through the store and spilling into the parking lot on any given weekend and Gun Store-visiting celebrities such as Ozzy Osbourne and Kelly Ripa attest to Miller's claim.

Back on the retail end of the store, there is much more going on than buying, selling, and talking about guns and ammunition. Owner and CEO Bob Irwin's passion for gun safety means the store gives away free gunlocks and offers free firearm safety, children's gun safety, and Concealed Carry Weapons permit classes. Paid courses include taser and pepper-spray training and various self-defense classes. Irwin's commitment to safety and knowledge goes a step farther in the numerous gun safety books he has authored, which are, of course, available at The Gun Store. People can purchase those books and others, additional merchandise, and shooting packages and sign up for classes on The Gun Store's website and online store. ■

The Gun Store range instructor Jeff Sirilla looks on as *Nevada Magazine* Editor Matthew B. Brown tries out a .223-caliber M249 Squad Automatic Weapon—the same machine gun currently used by U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

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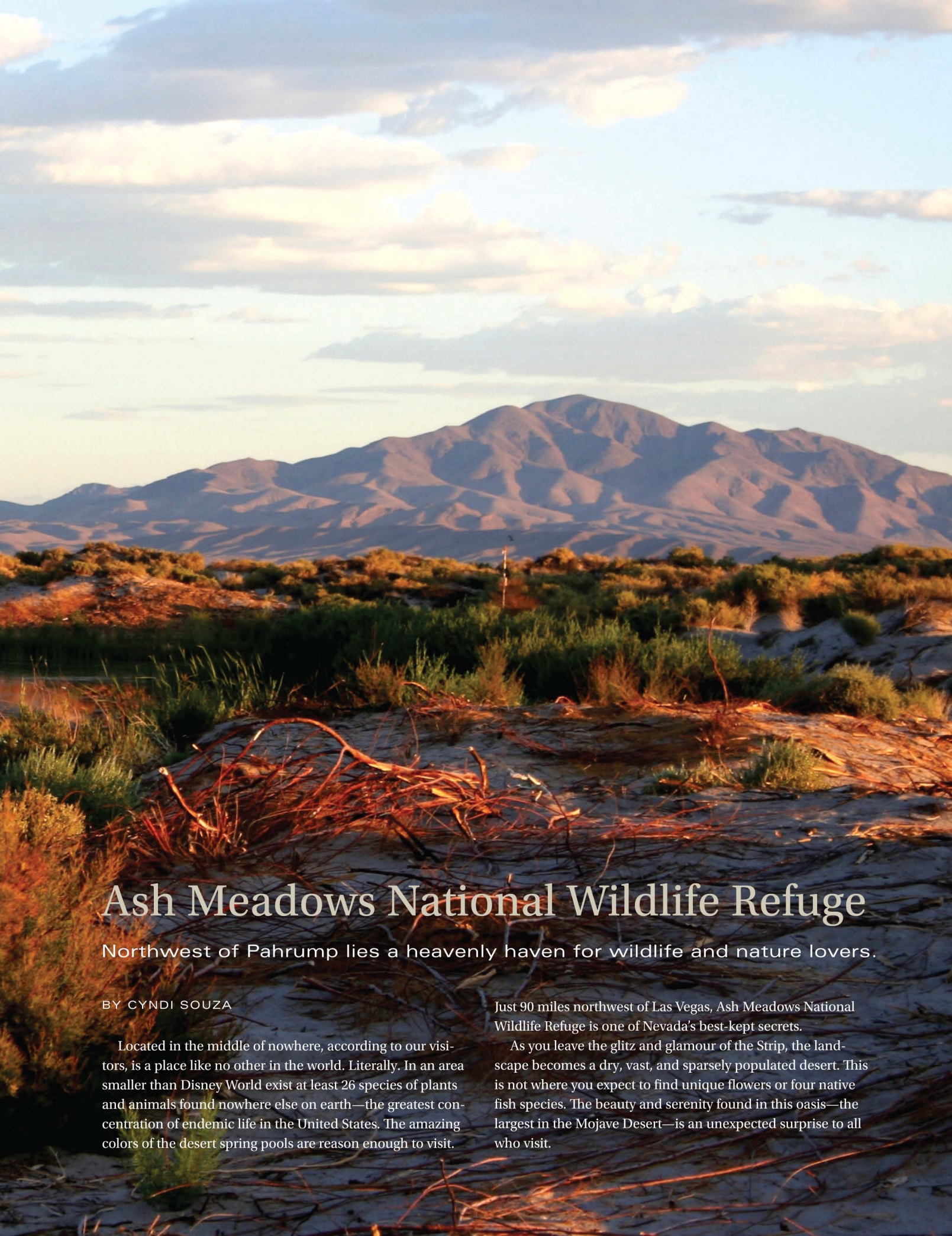

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Peterson Reservoir is located in the northern part of 23,000-acre Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, about 30 miles northwest of Pahrump and 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas. The refuge was established in 1984 primarily to protect federally listed endangered plant and animal species. PHOTO BY CYNDI SOUZA



Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

Northwest of Pahrump lies a heavenly haven for wildlife and nature lovers.

BY CYNDI SOUZA

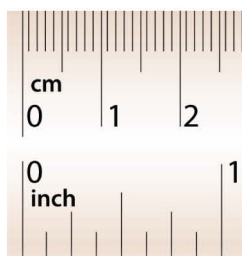
Located in the middle of nowhere, according to our visitors, is a place like no other in the world. Literally. In an area smaller than Disney World exist at least 26 species of plants and animals found nowhere else on earth—the greatest concentration of endemic life in the United States. The amazing colors of the desert spring pools are reason enough to visit.

Just 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge is one of Nevada's best-kept secrets.

As you leave the glitz and glamour of the Strip, the landscape becomes a dry, vast, and sparsely populated desert. This is not where you expect to find unique flowers or four native fish species. The beauty and serenity found in this oasis—the largest in the Mojave Desert—is an unexpected surprise to all who visit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

610 Spring Meadows Rd.,
Amargosa Valley, NV 89020
fws.gov/refuges
775-372-5435



Devils Hole Pupfish

The Devils Hole pupfish, found nowhere else on earth besides Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, was listed as endangered in 1967. This species rarely exceeds .98 inches in length and has a life span of about one year. The pupfish are naturally restricted to Devils Hole, a limestone cave situated on the east-central border of the refuge. The spring pool of Devils Hole is located about 15 meters below the land surface, where a shallow rock shelf approximately 2x4 meters is located. Just beyond the shelf, the spring descends to an unknown depth (more than 80 meters) into myriad chasms, mostly unexplored.—ecos.fws.gov



CYNDI SOUZA

Crystal Springs' (above) warmth creates a misty winter scene at Ash Meadows. In order to protect people and the endangered pupfish surviving therein, public access is not allowed at Devils Holes (below).

Sit a while and listen to the melodic calls of more than 275 species of birds, linger over crystal-clear waters filled with iridescent blue fish, or scan the rocky mountaintops for desert bighorn sheep. If you are more the scientific type, there is much to ponder here.

Devils Hole. The name itself incites curiosity. To



the casual observer, it looks like a simple water-filled chasm. The surface is small—only 66 feet long by 15 feet wide—yet it's home to the rarest fish in the world. Devils Hole pupfish, less than one inch in length, survive in this 93-degree water-filled cavern, which has been mapped to a depth of 500 feet; the bottom has yet to be found.

If history is your calling, the stone cabin of prospector and gunslinger Jack Longstreet awaits. Longstreet settled in Ash Meadows from 1894-99 and used spring water to cool his time-tested dwelling. The nearby spring pool is often called the boiling spring because of the fine white sand bellying up from its depths.

RESTORATION, RECOVERY, AND THOSE LOST FOREVER

Prior to 1984, the land was private. There was farming, ranching, peat mining, and a proposed housing development. These activities most likely led to the extinction of the Ash Meadows poolfish and possibly the Ash Meadows Montane Vole.

Since then, reestablishing a healthy ecosystem with native species has been challenging, but a proactive restoration program is achieving success. Today, not only have the desert fish of Ash Meadows benefited, but also many native plants and

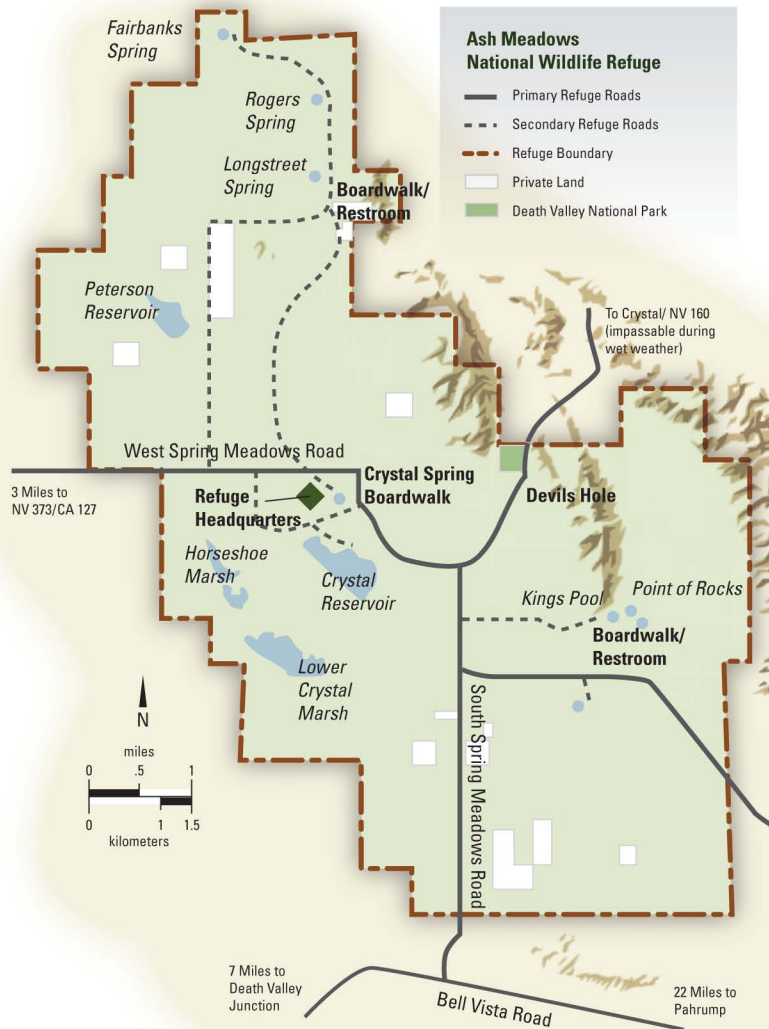
trees are beginning to flourish.

The area is frequented by a variety of migratory birds, so visitors might see pelicans, swans, or rare European migrants such as ruff. There are 40 species of mammals, more than 20 species of reptiles, four amphibian species, and more than 300 species of flowers and shrubs.

Along the Point of Rocks boardwalk are unique sculptures with information about the history, plants, and animals of the area. The boardwalk winds its way to an overlook complete with seating areas and wildlife-viewing scopes. Winter is prime time to spot desert bighorn sheep. The Ash Meadows Amargosa pupfish, also endemic, can be seen in Kings Pool, and the vegetation along the boardwalk makes it a good birding area.

In 2009, two new species of bees were discovered that might only exist in Ash Meadows. One can only surmise the fate of this species and many others if conservation efforts to protect endangered species had not been successful in this unique and rare place.

Cyndi Souza is a Visitor Services Specialist at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.



The amphitheater, located at the top of the Point of Rocks boardwalk, is the latest addition at the refuge. Viewing scopes allow visitors to get a closer look at refuge wildlife such as bighorn sheep.



ASH MEADOWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Established: June 18, 1984

Size: 23,000+ acres

No. of Endemic Species:
At least 26

Best Seasons to View Wildlife:
Spring and fall

Name: Refers to abundance of ash trees once found in area

Warning: Summer temps regularly exceed 100° F

Bountiful Bakeries

A trio of neighborhood nooks in Reno-Sparks where one can find perfect pastries.

BY ARLENE M. ECK

I've been in Reno about five years after stints in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania and figure it's about time to find the bakery in town that rivals Paris' finest. Every city has one, but I admit I haven't gone looking yet, partly because a trip to France had me long satiated and partly because I'm afraid it doesn't exist here.

Motivated by a compelling desire for the best

croissants, cakes, and pastries, I begin my search. I feel out of touch with this city, so I turn to the ultimate resource: my friends. A message on Facebook gets me a promising lead.

ISABEL'S BAKERY

Like many bakeries this far west, Isabel's Bakery is quite young—about six years old—but being family owned and run gives it some solidity. Located in a strip mall in north Sparks, this place is ready for the long haul.

Owner Debbie Brockhoff credits her success to keeping a high standard for the wares she sells. In her words, "If it's not fresh, we don't sell it."

As I walk into her bakery, I'm greeted with a cozy atmosphere: tables placed for patrons to enjoy their treats as well as displays filled with beautifully decorated specialty and wedding cakes.

I'm not here for the wedding cakes, in spite of their beauty, though. I'm here for the other treats. I ask the employee at the counter what the most scrumptious item in the case is, but she can't decide. "Everything is so good. You can't really go wrong," she says.



Pumpkin Muffins

Recipe provided by Debbie Brockhoff at Isabel's Bakery.

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cups cooking oil
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 whole eggs
- 1 cup pumpkin
- 1 cup raisins (optional)
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. allspice

Preparation and Cooking:

Combine oil and sugar in a bowl and mix well. Add eggs to oil/sugar mixture, mix again. Add all dry ingredients and mix again. Add pumpkin and raisin, and beat mixture thoroughly. Spoon the muffin batter into a cupcake pan lined with cupcake papers, and bake at 350 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes. Brockhoff suggests topping the finished muffins with cream cheese frosting.



CHARLIE JOHNSTON

Isabel's Bakery in Sparks offers a dizzying selection of cupcakes, most adorned with beautiful—and delicious—decorations, and brownies sport delicious options such as cream cheese and German chocolate frosting.

After a short battle between the Cream Cheese Brownie and a slice of Death by Chocolate Cake, the brownie finally wins out. How could it not? It's huge, chocolately, and topped with both cream cheese and fudge icings. The brownie is decadent and rich, and each bite is laced with a smidge of guilt. Not enough to make me stop eating, though. My daughter goes for the Triple Chocolate Cherry Delight Cupcake, and I'm convinced that her choice is due to the large amounts of cream and the bright red cherry topping it.

Brockhoff and I have a nice conversation over my brownie, during which I get a chance to ask about the name of the bakery.

"Isabel's, not Debbie's?" I ask.

"No, Isabel was my aunt. She was very poor, but she had a big heart. She didn't bake, but she taught me to have a good work ethic, and so this bakery is my homage to her."

Looking around, I'm sure Isabel would be proud of her niece. Having tried Isabel's, I'm heartened—the self-described homespun bakery definitely produces tasty and satisfying treats.

KRUMBLZ DELI BAKERY

A quick search on yelp.com helps me here. A place called Krumblz Deli Bakery in Reno comes up with four out of five stars, and I simply must find out what all the fuss is about.

The pastry chef, Eduardo Quevedo, got his start in town at the Siena Casino, which abruptly closed a couple years ago and reopened under new management in 2011. Quevedo and a friend, executive chef and co-owner Juan Villa, bootstrapped a chance at a place of their own, and Krumblz was born not much later. They've just passed their one-year mark successfully with many more on the horizon.

I arrive in the afternoon to a bare case and am informed that I should be lucky anything is left at all. Eager to get my hands on something, my heart tugs me toward the enormous home-made chocolate croissants that dominate what little is left in the case.

It comes apart in uneven, buttery flakes with chocolate sticking to my fingers, and the center has the perfect chewiness. I



CHARLIE JOHNSTON

Eduardo Quevedo's passion for perfect pastries is apparent at Krumblz Deli Bakery in Reno. Quevedo and co-owner Juan Villa take pride in sweating the details.

am smitten. I feel like a child caught with my hand in the cookie jar. Eduardo is my new best friend.

Quevedo says he's always trying new things: "I'm inspired by magazines, cooking shows, and books. I challenge myself by taking classics and giving them a twist."

He doesn't have to twist my arm to come back. I see why locals come here. It's comfortable, friendly, and situated in central Reno near Renown Regional Medical Center. It's the perfect excuse to get me out of my house to meet my husband for lunch. Next time I come, I'm getting a made-to-order cannoli. Sadly, they were out today.



WALNUT-CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

Recipe provided by Eduardo Quevedo at Krumblyz Deli Bakery.

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups butter
- 7/8 cups brown sugar
- 3/8 cups granulated sugar
- 3 whole eggs
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup medium chopped walnuts
- 1/2 cup vanilla pudding mix
- 1 3/8 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tbsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tbsp. vanilla extract

Preparation and Cooking:

Combine room-temperature butter with brown and granulated sugars and salt and mix thoroughly. Mix in eggs one at a time to butter/sugar/salt combination. Add pudding mix, flour, baking soda, and vanilla extract and mix again. Add chocolate chips and walnuts, and blend until well mixed. Roll the cookie dough into one-inch-diameter balls and place on baking sheet approximately two inches apart. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes.

FRANZ'S BACKSTUBE AUSTRIAN BAKERY CAFÉ

If Krumblyz and Isabel's are gems in this high-desert city, then Franz's Backstube Austrian Bakery Café is the Holy Grail.

Franz Hauser opened his doors about nine years ago to the delight of many a pastryophile in the Truckee Meadows. And the addition in recent months of Don Holtzer as his partner continues to make Franz's bakery one of the finest in the region. Holtzer apprenticed with Hauser about 30 years ago and had a varied and successful career across the country, including work at the Dunes in Las Vegas and the Marriott Wardman Park hotel in Washington D.C., where he was involved in President Obama's Inaugural Ball.

I'm a little nervous coming here because my hopes are high, and they rise once I walk through the door. The case is filled with pecan and fruit tarts, pastries, quiche, and walnut croissants, among other things. The authentic cakes and pastries here will tempt even the most dedicated dieter.

But then who needs a diet when a slice of Princess Cake awaits? This signature cake is assembled with layers of love otherwise known as delicate, moist white cake, a thin layer of raspberry preserves, and pastry cream so light, creamy, and full of flavor it can only be compared with the culinary treats produced by the bar-raising patisseries of New York and Paris. A balance of flavor and texture is achieved with the final touch of thinly rolled frangipane colored a striking green and decorated with tiny budding, butter cream flowers. Absolutely delicious and worth coming back for. Not only that, but I've already promised multiple friends and family members that we'll be going to Franz's the next time they visit me.

While I'm swooning over the Princess Cake, I ask Holtzer what he has in store for the bakery's future. He assures me that the success of Franz's is Franz himself. Though Holtzer has worked in the most stressful, time-consuming, and demand-for-perfection areas of the business, he allows that Hauser demands more still. Holtzer has a vision of the bakery that involves more delicate sugar-work and artistry. He'd also like to break into the wedding industry here in town. And he'd like to add more complex



CHARLIE JOHNSTON

The petit fours at Franz's Backstube Austrian Bakery Café are almost too elegant to eat—almost.

creations to the case. But the heart of this bakery is what Hauser has built, and Holtzer is committed to that, for which I'm grateful.

Reasonably priced and nuzzled up to the foothills on the west side of town, Franz's serves up the sort of pastries I had previously only dreamt about. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Isabel's Bakery
1272 Disc Dr., Sparks, NV 89436
isabelsbakery.com
775-626-3800

Krumblyz Deli Bakery
80 Giroux St., Ste. 102, Reno, NV 89502
krumblyzdelibakery.com
775-284-0700

Franz's Backstube Austrian Bakery Café
3882 Mayberry Landing, Reno, NV 89519
franzbackstube.com
775-624-2921

LOLA'S – A LOUISIANA KITCHEN

A comfort-food Las Vegas café that brings the bayou's best to the southwest.

STORY & PHOTOS BY CHARLIE JOHNSTON

You can tell a lot about a restaurant from the kind of bread it serves. Whether it's the first thing to reach the table, bookending a sandwich, or served alongside a specific dish, bread is ubiquitous. Some joints barely seem to go to the trouble to warm it up after cutting it out of its store-bought package, while others go to painstaking lengths to make it memorable. At Lola's – A Louisiana Kitchen in the old Holsum Bread Factory building in Las Vegas' Arts District, Leidenheimer's French Bread is flown from The Big Easy before being sliced, lightly toasted, and caressed with butter. It literally melts in your mouth.

Lola Elizabeth Pokorny was born in New Orleans and raised in Louisiana. In November 2009, she took her expansive knowledge of southern cuisine—weaned from a lifetime of assisting her mother in the kitchen and 15 years as a personal chef and caterer in Las Vegas—and opened Lola's. To say Las Vegas took kindly to her and the restaurant is an understatement. A Saturday lunch crowd—the dining room opens at noon, and by 12:30 nearly every table is full—is packed with first-time diners and regulars who visit “at least twice a week,” according to Pokorny. And it's no wonder why: A menu replete with Louisiana favorites from Po-Boy sandwiches to Jambalaya is expansive enough for a different experience on every visit.

House-specialty blended crawfish “Crawpuppies” kick things off right with a side of Cajun aioli and a bottle of Abita Beer's Purple Haze Raspberry Wheat or Jackamo IPA from Abita Springs, Louisiana. Gumbo is thick, rich, and pleasantly spicy with whole shrimp and huge chunks of chicken, andouille sausage, and okra. “People [who haven't had gumbo] come in a little skeptical,” says server and Chalmette, Louisiana transplant Angela Rigaud. “But they walk out believers.”

Bronzed Catfish with Gouda grits and New Orleans Style BBQ Shrimp are two of Lola's most popular dishes, and with good reason. The catfish and grits are definitive comfort food. The light and perfectly moist catfish breaks into tender flakes, specked with a kiss of blackened Cajun spices. The catfish and luxuriously creamy and cheesy grits are tied together nicely with a savory and slightly salty andouille sausage and mushroom ragout.

New Orleans Style BBQ Shrimp are great to share. Five succulent, plump shrimp lightly coated in a bold but not overpowering barbecue sauce surround a heap of soft white rice in a pool of the thin and complexly flavorful sauce. More addictively buttery French bread helps to sop up every last drop of sauce—even without the bread, the stuff is good enough to drink.

Desserts right out of the Deep South include Mamma Deaux's Banana Pudding, sweet potato pecan pie, and an array of decadent bread puddings. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION

241 W. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89102
lolaslasvegas.com
702-227-5652



Clockwise from top: Bronzed Catfish with Gouda grits; Crawpuppies with Cajun aioli and Abita Beer's Purple Haze Raspberry Wheat; New Orleans Style BBQ Shrimp; and Gumbo.

Mike Pegram, Gardnerville

There was a time in Mike Pegram's life that he and his friends would unwind at lovely Lake Tahoe. Whether it was boating, fishing, or golfing, Pegram relished it, but he also felt his buddies were missing out on a lesser-known Nevada gem. "I always gravitated to Minden and Gardnerville," he says. "Carson Valley is one of the most beautiful places in the world—the quaintness of the valley, the character of the people—it's the way the West should be."

This was the early 1980s, when Pegram lived in Sacramento but was becoming more and more smitten with Carson Valley. In 1984, Carson Valley Inn opened its doors, and naturally Pegram became a loyal customer, frequenting the establishment for many years thereafter. Skip ahead a decade, and Pegram struck up a friendship with the Caranos, a longtime Reno gaming family. The relationship led to a joint business venture—the building of Bodines Casino in Carson City in 2008.

It was not long after that then-owners Jean and Patrick Mulreany put Carson Valley Inn up for sale, and Pegram and the Caranos again partnered to buy the property. In January 2010, Pegram's admiration for Carson Valley came full circle when he became the majority owner (the Carano family and Rick Murdock claim close to 25 percent) of CVI. He has been hard at work ever since.

In just two years, everything in the casino has been remodeled, replaced, refurbished, or refreshed. In a time when most businesses in Nevada were hurting, Pegram spearheaded a successful renovation effort. "We were very selective in how we spent our capital," he says. "Every dollar we spent was toward the customer. I like to say we brought CVI into the 21st century."

Renovated rooms, new slot technology, and a new cabaret, casino bar, lounge, sports book, and steakhouse—CV Steak—are the highlights of a more than \$10 million injection. Still to come are a remodeled Katie's Country Kitchen, a new outdoor pool deck, and another parking-lot expansion project. "When you're in this business, you're never finished," says Pegram, who turns 60 in February and is legendary for his intense work ethic and attention to detail.

The Kentucky native and part-time resident of Gardnerville is no stranger to business success, owning a chain of McDonald's restaurants in Arizona. He is also the co-owner of 2010 Preakness Stakes winner Lookin at Lucky and owner of 1998 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner Real Quiet. How many total racehorses does he own? "Forty to 50," he says, conducting our interview a few days before entering four of them in The Breeders' Cup. "I've never even stopped to count them." ▀

What's New at the Carson Valley Inn

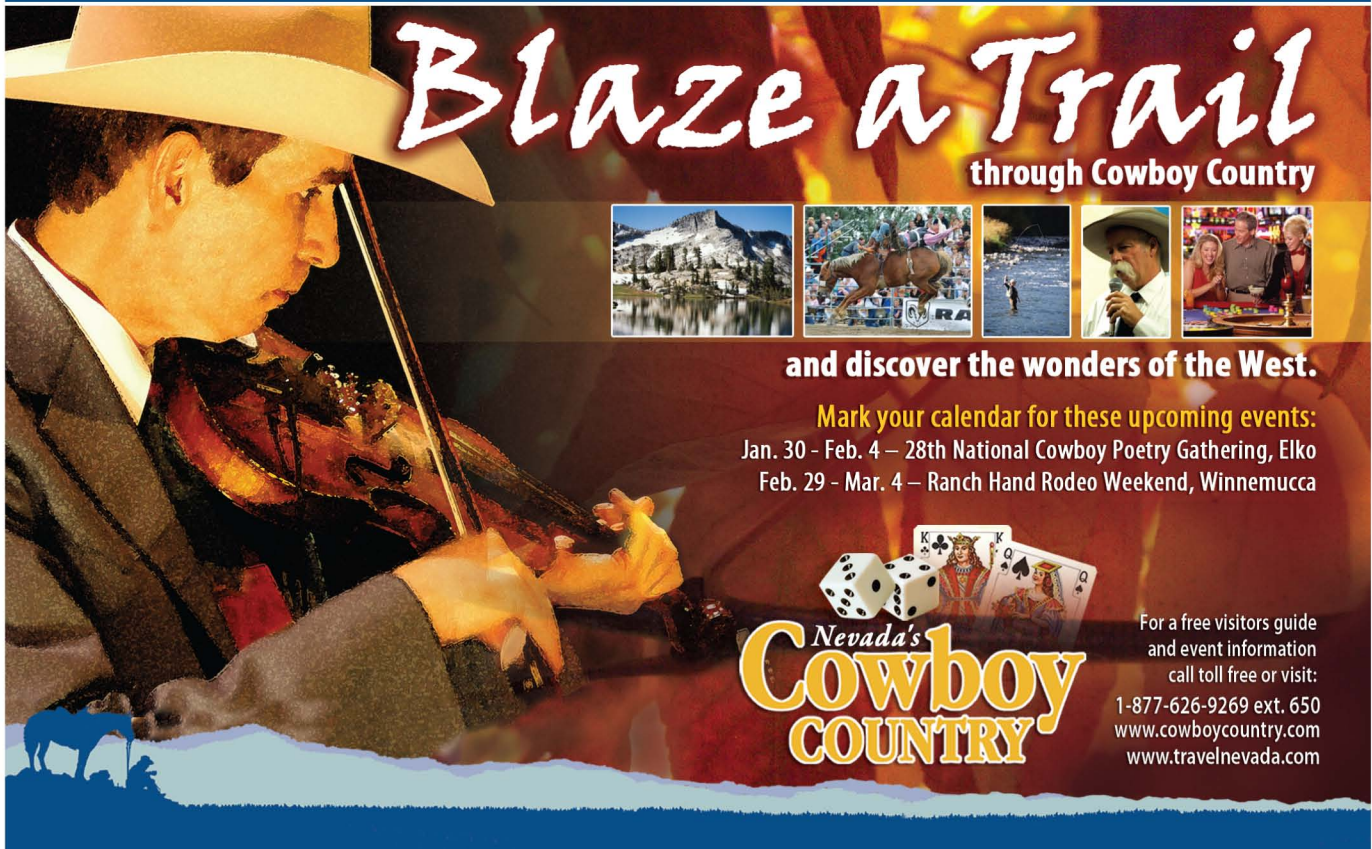
- CV Steak opened in spring 2010
- Advanced slot technology
- New Guest Services area
- New Cabaret, Sports Book, & Casino Bar
- New reception room & business center
- 7 remodeled suites
- 40 refurbished hotel rooms
- 106 remodeled hotel rooms

FOR MORE INFORMATION

1627 Hwy. 395 N.,
Minden, NV 89423
carsonvalleyinn.com
800-321-6983




For more than 25 years, the Carson Valley Inn has beckoned travelers on U.S. Highway 395 through Minden. Since Mike Pegram gained majority ownership of the property in early 2010, just about everything in the casino-hotel has received a much-needed makeover, making it one of the area's premier resorts.



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Chukar Partridge in Nevada

◆ The chukar was first introduced in Nevada in 1935 when the Nevada Fish and Game Commission released a total of 289 birds in nine counties. Through 1954, more than 6,000 chukars were released in Nevada, and the birds inhabited 14 of the state's 17 counties. From 1955-66, another 7,256 birds were released. Currently, the state's chukar population is estimated at more than 500,000.

◆ Chukar habitat in India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan (the countries that were probably the primary source of the birds that were introduced in North America) is characterized geographically by a series of massive mountain chains such as the Himalayas, Hindu Kush, and Karakorams, which harbor the highest peaks in the world and present, from a topographical standpoint, some of the most rugged mountain

terrain to be found anywhere.

◆ Nevada embraces a large block of chukar habitat in the southwest portion of its North American range. Here the geography is typical of the Great Basin, which is bounded on the west by the Sierra Nevada, on the east by the Wasatch Range, the Columbia-Snake watershed in southeastern Oregon on the north, and by the Colorado River drainage to the south.

◆ The chukar partridge has found its niche in this rugged Great Basin terrain, living from the valley floor below sea level in Death Valley National Park to as high as 12,000 feet in the White Mountains of Nevada and California. In Nevada, they generally occupy elevations between 4,000 and 9,000 feet.

◆ Nevada averages more than 12,000 chukar

hunters a year. The hunting season for chukar and Hungarian partridge runs through February 8, and the daily and possession limits are six and 18, respectively. ▽

This information is provided by the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

ndow.org, 775-688-1500

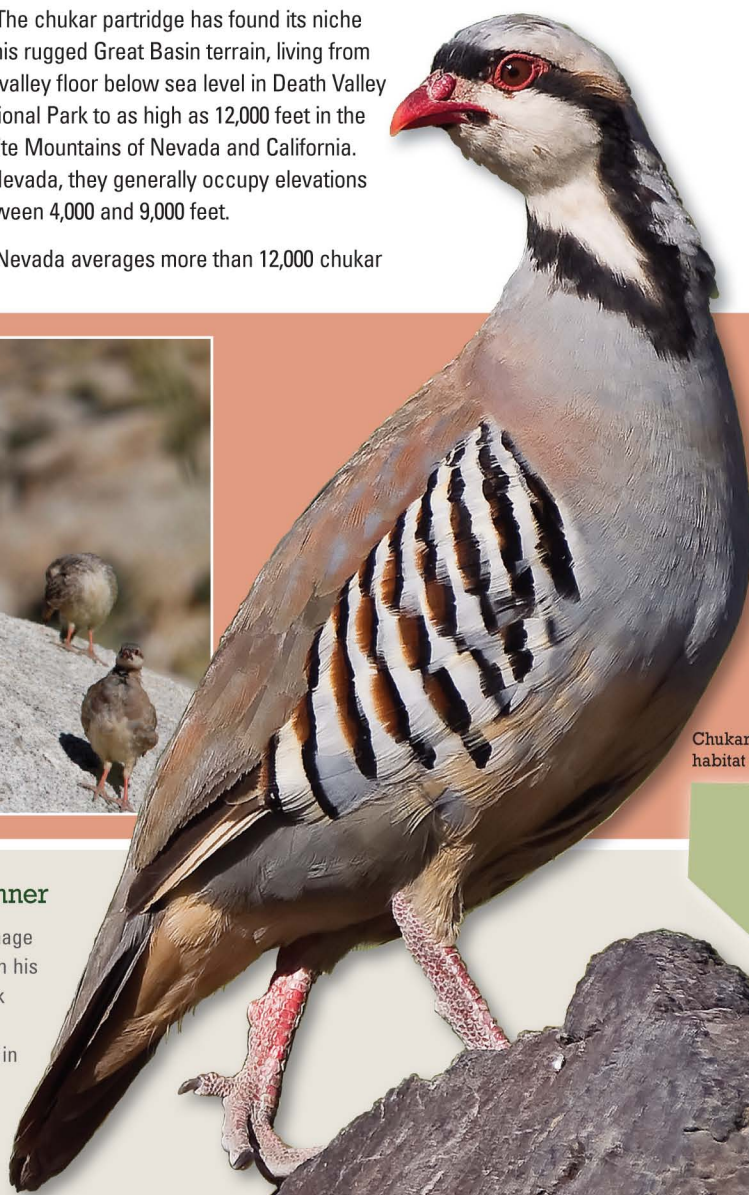


2012 Nevada Duck Stamp Art Contest Winner

Pennsylvania artist Gerald Putt produced this stunning image of an American wigeon—the same subject he used to win his



home state's 1991 duck stamp contest. This is Putt's 19th overall win in such contests, but his first in Nevada. All the Nevada winners can be viewed at ndow.org/wild/stamp.



Chukar Partridge habitat area



Winnemucca

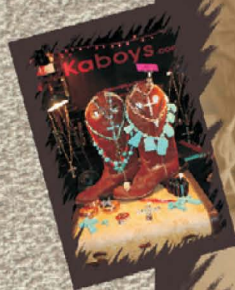
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Mizpah Hotel

The finest stone hotel on the desert is restored—yet again—to its former glory.

BY MATTHEW B. BROWN

If you were living in Tonopah in 1908, 1980, 1996, or August 2011, you likely share this in common—you took part in a grand-opening celebration of the Mizpah Hotel. But how can a hotel open four different times?

To understand the topsy-turvy history of the hotel, which very much mirrors the boom-and-bust nature of the town itself, is to gain insight into how “the finest stone hotel on the desert” (as it was promoted in its early days) has gone through 10 ownerships in its 105-year history. In fact, even its age is up for debate—was it built in 1907 or 1908?

The Beginning

In reality, the Mizpah Hotel story begins in 1905, further confusing the issue. The current hotel is actually made up of two buildings. The Brougher-Govan Block, connected to the north side of the Mizpah



JIM GALLI

Tonopah's Mizpah Hotel, dating to 1907, reopened last year after being shuttered since 2000.

Hotel, was constructed in 1905 and is still labeled as such to remind residents and visitors. Three influential Tonopah citizens—State Senator Wilson Brougher, his brother Calvin Brougher, and Robert Govan—who owned the Tonopah Lumber Company, financed The Annex, as the three-story Brougher-Govan Block building was originally known.

The Annex was an important business center in early Tonopah, housing the offices of Tonopah Banking Corporation and Ramus Brokerage Company and serving as a hotel. Lawyers, real estate brokers, and employees of mining investment firms also conducted business in what was for a short time the largest building in town, constructed of native granite. The hotel portion of the business was prospering to such a degree that, in early 1907, four Nevada investors decided that the market was prime for a dedicated five-story hotel with the finest accommodations of the day.

Calvin Brougher, Govan, George Wingfield, and U.S. Senator George S. Nixon

financed the hotel at a cost of more than \$200,000 (equivalent to more than \$4.5 million today). Construction plans for the Mizpah Hotel meant that the Mizpah Saloon & Grill, which occupied the space next to The Annex since early 1901, had to find a new home in Tonopah.

As soon as the notorious Nevada weather allowed it in 1907, contractor George W. Holesworth and his crew quickly and efficiently raised the brick and granite walls of the Mizpah, and it was projected that one of the West's most luxurious hotels would be open by early 1908. Then economic hysteria intervened. The Panic of 1907, brought on by a national banking crisis, hit in the fall and brought the Silver State's mining boom to a screeching halt. Also, money previously committed to the Mizpah was utilized to help rebuild San Francisco after the devastating 1906 earthquake. Through the winter of 1907-08, the building sat in a state of flux with its windows boarded up, as so often has been the case in the hotel's tumultuous,

TONOPAH & MIZPAH HOTEL: Through the Years

1900 — Jim Butler discovers silver	1902 — Tonopah population reaches 3,000	1905 — The Annex is constructed	Early 1907 — Mizpah Hotel financed at more than \$200,000	Fall 1907 — Mizpah Hotel construction stalls	Summer 1908 — Work resumes on Mizpah Hotel	Nov. 17, 1908 — Grand opening of Mizpah Hotel	1908 — Tonopah population reaches 10,000	1922 — Mizpah leased to George R. Hickernall	1930 — Hickernall purchases hotel outright	1934 — William Kennett Sr. acquires controlling interest	1943 — Kennetts enter agreement with Cavanaugh Bros.	1948 — Cavanaugh Bros. gain full control
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yet enduring, past.

As luck would have it, the general depression recovered by mid-1908, and Wingfield was instrumental in resuming construction of the hotel that summer. Citizens again grew eager for the hotel's opening, as they witnessed dazzling oak furnishings and fancy fixtures entering the building, while enormous plate glass windows decorated the exterior. The hotel became a pillar of pride for the mining town that had grown to a population of 10,000.

By mid-autumn, Wingfield and company were ready to introduce the five-story masterpiece to the world in decadent fashion. On November 17, 1908, roughly 5,000 people celebrated the grand opening. A reporter for the *Tonopah Daily Bonanza* did not disappoint in interjecting a bit of editorial hyperbole that was common in newspapers of the day:

Suites, single rooms, rooms for private business meetings, baths, lavatories, steam, hot and cold water and electric and gas service, all are complete. ...An electric elevator runs from the basement to the garret, and should the guest desire, he can stroll into the office, state that he wants to be fed, bathed, and put into bed, and all these things will be attended to for him. The Mizpah is a credit to Tonopah, and it eminently deserves a patronage which will enable it to maintain...the high standard of excellence upon which it starts. Good luck to the Mizpah.

For the next decade or so, Tonopah prospered as one of America's top silver-producing regions. Under Govan's

leadership, so did the Mizpah. Dignitaries, politicians—generally anyone deemed important by society's standards—traveled by the droves to Tonopah so they could boast that they had stayed at the Mizpah. By the early 1920s, however, the prosperous mines of Esmeralda and Nye Counties dried up, and the Mizpah saw its first significant decline in business and prestige.

The Middle Years

The Mizpah Hotel changed hands a number of times from the 1920s through the mid-1970s. Different leases, purchases, and ownership agreements characterized a challenging 50-year period for the hotel, which mirrored Tonopah's own struggle to stay relevant. With automobiles becoming the primary source of transportation, coupled with the growth of Lake Tahoe, Las Vegas, and Reno as gaming and tourist destinations, Tonopah largely survived given its unique position as the halfway point on the long drive from Las Vegas to Reno.

There were a couple significant milestones for the hotel during these years. On October 1, 1956, new owners Myron Stahl and Les E. Short erected a brilliant neon sign, a symbol for a promising new era for the hotel. The hotel eventually expanded its casino and cocktail lounge. The hope was short-lived, however, as a Philadelphia group seized control of the building in 1963. By 1966, the Mizpah was closed for business for the first time in its almost 60-year history.

Frank Scott to the Rescue

In 1976, Las Vegas hotelier Frank Scott took on the imposing challenge of restoring a battered Mizpah Hotel. Over the next few years, Scott invested millions to

revitalize Tonopah's shining star. In fact, Scott purchased much of the furniture guests see today at the Mizpah—albeit reupholstered by the current owners. In February 1980, Governor Robert List was among those there to celebrate Scott's accomplishment of revitalizing and reopening the Mizpah.

The Mizpah's brilliance, enjoyed in its heyday of the early 1900s, had indeed come full circle. A 1982 issue of *Nevada Magazine* declared: "A marvel of restoration has transformed this formerly decaying historic relic into the grandest hotel for 100 miles in any direction."

You can probably guess how Scott's chapter ends, though. By 1984, Bill Allison and Bert Basolis became the latest in a long line of Mizpah owners. After a subsequent closing, then another grand reopening on a much smaller scale in 1996, the hotel closed in 2000 and would spend its 100th year just as it did its first—boarded up and facing an uncertain future.

The Clines Usher in a New Era

Nancy Cline's Tonopah roots can be traced to early 1900, when her great uncle, Harry Ramsey, arrived in the "Queen of the Silver Camps." He was joined a few years later by his sister, Emma (Cline's grandmother). Ramsey amassed a fortune buying and selling silver mines and ran a popular saloon in town. Emma became postmistress of nearby Goldfield, a title she held for several years. "A street named Ramsey reminds me that my relatives were, in fact, a big part of the community," Cline recently told the *Tonopah Times-Bonanza*.

And now, less than a year after Nancy and her husband, Fred, purchased the

1954 — Mizpah sold to Mr. & Mrs. George Hillard	1956 — Myron Stahl & Les E. Short purchase hotel	Oct. 1, 1956 — Mizpah's neon sign lit for first time	1963 — Philadelphia group gains operation	1966 — Mizpah closes for first time	1976 — Frank Scott purchases hotel	Feb. 1980 — Grand reopening of the Mizpah Hotel	1984 — Bill Allison & Bert Basolis purchase hotel	1987 — Allison & Billibert Corp. lease hotel	1996 — Allison gains full ownership, reopens hotel	2000 — Mizpah Hotel closes	Feb. 2011 — Fred & Nancy Cline purchase hotel	Aug. 27, 2011 — Grand reopening of Mizpah Hotel
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MATTHEW B. BROWN

Nancy Cline speaks at the soft-opening celebration in front of the Mizpah Hotel in Tonopah on August 27, 2011. Cline and her husband, Fred (behind Nancy), shown with some of their children, are the current owners of the historic hotel.

HOW WAS YOUR STAY?

The following comments are from Mizpah Hotel's Facebook page, [facebook.com/mizpahhotel](https://www.facebook.com/mizpahhotel).

William Harp

"We had an awesome stay in the Mizpah. Thanks. The Pittman Room has excellent food and service. We'll be sure to come back when the Dempsey Room is open."

Deborah Ann Ahern-Perchetti

"It is so nice to have a gourmet restaurant in Tonopah. Thank you, Fred and Nancy."

Robert Sindich

"I had dinner in the Dempsey Room. The food was delicious, and the service was prompt and friendly! The Mizpah was beautiful inside! I felt like I went back in time 100 years. Great job! Tonopah is a destination now. Not just a stop on the way to Reno or Vegas. Thank you!"

Mizpah Hotel for \$200,000—coincidentally the same as it cost to build originally—the Clines have also become important figures in the community. After mostly cosmetic upgrades such as carpet and wallpaper, plus modern additions such as flat-screen TVs, Mizpah Hotel officially reopened for business late last year. "With 47 rooms, two restaurants, a casino, two saloons, and a couple of friendly ghosts, the Mizpah is both journey and destination," reads the official website.

Just like former governor List did 21 years prior, Governor Brian Sandoval was there to cut the ribbon when the Mizpah celebrated a soft opening on August 27, 2011. About a hundred on-lookers spilled onto Main Street to share in Sandoval's optimistic sentiment. "This is symbolic of the fact that Nevada's best days are ahead of us," Sandoval said. "This means the world, and this is going to reverberate across the State of Nevada." The Clines and six of their seven children were cheered consistently by the adoring crowd, many of whom en-

thusiastically dined with the Clines and spent the night in the hotel, even when the air-conditioning system wasn't yet fully operational.

Let's hope for the Clines, who also own Cline Cellars Winery and Jacuzzi Family Winery in Sonoma, California, that this is not a case of history repeating itself. Just as that excitable reporter wrote in 1908, and just like Guy Rocha concluded his story more than 70 years later in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*: Good luck to the Mizpah. ▀

Special thanks to former Nevada State Archivist Guy Rocha and Eva La Rue, curator at Tonopah's Central Nevada Museum.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

100 Main St., Tonopah, NV 89049
mizpahhotel.net
mizpahhotel.wordpress.com
 775-482-3030

LOOKING BACK

February 20 is Presidents Day, during the same month we celebrate the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. This issue we reflect on acting presidents' past visits to Nevada.



ROY KALTSCHMIDT/LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LAB

John F. Kennedy and Glenn T. Seaborg, chairman of the United States Atomic Energy Commission, take a vehicle tour during their 1962 visit to the Nevada Test Site.

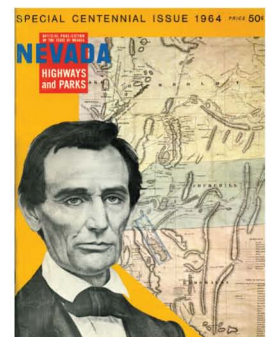
- **September 7, 1880** — The first sitting president to visit Lake Tahoe and Nevada, Rutherford B. Hayes, arrives on the Comstock after a brief stop and speech in Reno.
- **May 19, 1903** — Theodore Roosevelt's presidential train stops in Reno long enough to switch engines and proceeds to Carson City.
- **November 7, 1932** — Herbert Hoover talks to the nation in a radio address from a train car in Elko.
- **September 30, 1935** — Franklin D. Roosevelt speaks at a formal dedication ceremony in Boulder City to honor newly constructed Hoover Dam.
- **July 26, 1997** — Bill Clinton attends the Lake Tahoe Presidential Forum in Incline Village, bringing national attention to environmental efforts at North America's largest alpine lake.
- **November 2, 2006** — "It is nice to be in a part of the country where the cowboy hats outnumber the ties," says George W. Bush during his opening remarks in a speech in Elko.
- **October 24, 2011** — Barack Obama visits Las Vegas to tout his revised jobs bill.



"This morning I came, I saw, and I was conquered, as everyone would be who sees for the first time this great feat of mankind," Franklin D. Roosevelt said about Hoover Dam, known as Boulder Dam in 1935.

➤ **December 8, 1962** — John F. Kennedy arrives at Indian Springs Air Force Base before proceeding by helicopter to the Nevada Test Site.

FROM OUR ARCHIVE



Special Centennial Issue 1964

Abraham Lincoln used this Currier and Ives portrait on his campaign posters. The background image is an early map of Nevada by Henry De Groot.

NORTHERN NEVADA

January/February 2012

Dates are subject to change. Call or visit the event website to confirm details such as times. "Dark" means the event or show is closed that day(s).

To submit an event or show, e-mail editor@nevadamagazine.com.



ONE-TIME EVENTS

THROUGH JANUARY 2

SQUAW VALLEY USA—Holidays at Squaw, squaw.com, 530-583-6955

THROUGH JANUARY 10

FERNLEY—TREEcycle, Out of Town Park, cityoffernley.org, 775-784-9800

DECEMBER 30-JANUARY 1

GERLACH—New Year's in Gerlach, blackrockdesert.org, 775-843-6443

DECEMBER 31-JANUARY 1

SPARKS—Adam Carolla, John Ascuaga's Nugget, janugget.com, 800-648-1177

JANUARY 1

FALLON—New Year's Day Ride & Hobo Stew Chow Down, Eagles Hall, e-mail: duce.coop@yahoo.com, 775-867-2447

RENO—Gabriel Iglesias, Silver Legacy, silverlegacyreno.com, 800-687-8733

JANUARY 3

STATELINE—NOFX, MontBleu, montbleuresort.com, 888-829-7630

JANUARY 5-8

RENO—Reno Winter Bachata, hosted by Reno Latin Dancefest & Showcase, Silver Legacy, latindancefest.com

JANUARY 6

CRYSTAL BAY—Acorn Project, Crystal Bay Club, devildogshows.com

INCLINE VILLAGE—Full Moon Snowshoe to Snowflake Lodge, Diamond Peak, diamondpeak.com, 775-832-1177

RENO—Meet the Artist: Todd Hido on The Altered Landscape, Nevada Museum of Art, nevadaart.org, 775-329-3333

JANUARY 7

CRYSTAL BAY—Purple Haze, Crystal Bay Club, devildogshows.com

KIRKWOOD MOUNTAIN RESORT—Full-Moon Snowshoe Trek & Winter Trails Day, kirkwood.com, 209-258-7277

NORTHSTAR-AT-TAHOE—Moonlight Snowshoe Tour, northstarattahoe.com, 800-466-6784

SIERRA-AT-TAHOE—Volcom PB & Rail Jam, sierraattahoe.com, 530-659-7453

SPRING CREEK—Ruby Mountain Roping, Horse Palace, springcreeknv.net, 775-753-6510

TAHOE MEADOWS & SOUTH LAKE TAHOE—National Winter Trails Day, Tahoe Rim Trail Association, tahoerimtrail.org, 775-298-0012

WEST WENDOVER—Leon Russell, Peppermill Concert Hall, wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

JANUARY 8-13

NORTHSTAR-AT-TAHOE—U.S. Revolution Tour, northstarattahoe.com, 800-466-6784

JANUARY 9-12

RENO—NBA Development League Showcase (16 games), Reno Events Center, ticketmaster.com, 800-745-3000

JANUARY 9-13

INCLINE VILLAGE—Learn to Ski & Ride Week, Diamond Peak, diamondpeak.com, 775-832-1177

JANUARY 10

RENO—Harlem Globetrotters World Tour, Lawlor Events Center, unr.edu/lawlor, 775-784-4444

JANUARY 12

INCLINE VILLAGE—Community Appreciation Day (locals discounts), Diamond Peak, diamondpeak.com, 775-832-1177

JANUARY 12-15

RENO—Tyler Dean Play, Bruka Theatre, bruka.org, 775-323-3221

JANUARY 13

NORTHSTAR-AT-TAHOE—Star Gazing Snowshoe Tour, northstarattahoe.com, 800-466-6784

WEST WENDOVER—Queensryche, Peppermill Concert Hall, wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY

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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

JANUARY 13-15

CAVE LAKE STATE PARK—White Pine Fire & Ice Show, fireworks and ice-sculpture competition, elynevada.net, 800-496-9350

JANUARY 13-16

SPRING CREEK—Ruby Mountain Motocross, Horse Palace, springcreeknv.net, 775-753-6510

JANUARY 14

NORTHSTAR-AT-TAHOE—Rossignol Skate Ski Clinic, northstarattahoe.com, 800-466-6784

VIRGINIA CITY—An Evening with Mark Twain, Piper's Opera House, piperslive.com, 775-847-0433

WEST WENDOVER—Big Gay Fun Bus (Salt Lake City to West Wendover), biggayfunbus.com

WEST WENDOVER—Temptations & Tops, Peppermill Concert Hall, wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

WINNEMUCCA—Chukar Foundation Dinner & Auction, winnemucca.com, 775-623-1236

JANUARY 14-15

RENO—Repticon, reptile & exotic animal show, Ramada, repticon.com, 863-268-4273

RENO—Wild Winter Weekend, Animal Ark, animalark.org, 1-775-970-3111

JANUARY 15

CRYSTAL BAY—March Fourth Marching Band, Crystal Bay Club, devildogshows.com

KIRKWOOD MOUNTAIN RESORT—Head2Head Open Race, kirkwood.com, 209-258-7277

NORTHSTAR-AT-TAHOE—Family Afternoon Snowshoe Tour, northstarattahoe.com, 800-466-6784

RENO—MasterClassics 4: Romantic Journeys, Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, Pioneer Center, pioneercenter.com, 775-686-6600

JANUARY 17

RENO—MasterClassics 4: Romantic Journeys, Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, Pioneer Center, pioneercenter.com, 775-686-6600

JANUARY 18

RENO—Imago Theatre Zoo Zoo, presented by Artown, Grand Sierra, grandsierraresort.com, 800-501-2651

RENO—Roach Gigz, Knitting Factory, re.knittingfactory.com, 775-323-5648

JANUARY 18-21

STATELINE—Tahoe Snowcial, Heavenly Mountain Resort & Harveys, tahoesnowcial.com

JANUARY 20



RENO—Bozena Welborne on Syrian Water Politics and Water Thief, Nevada Museum of Art, nevadaart.org, 775-329-3333

RENO—David Garrett, presented by Artown, Grand Sierra, grandsierraresort.com, 800-501-2651

RENO—MMA Fight Series, Harrah's, harrahsreno.com, 775-788-2900

STATELINE—Beats Antique, MontBleu, montbleuresort.com, 888-829-7630

WEST WENDOVER—Night Ranger, Peppermill Concert Hall, wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

YERINGTON—"On The Trail" Benefit Western Concert & Silent Auction, Yerington Theatre for the Arts, yeringtonarts.com, 775-463-1783

JANUARY 20-21

SPARKS—Sheep Dip 48, satirical skits, John Ascuaga's Nugget, sheeppipshow.com, 775-356-3300

JANUARY 20-22

INCLINE VILLAGE—Ullr Fest, Diamond Peak, diamondpeak.com, 775-832-1177

JANUARY 21

BAKER—Shepherd's Reunion, greatbasinheritage.org, 775-234-7171

BOREAL MOUNTAIN RESORT—USASA Slopestyle, rideboreal.com, 530-426-3666

CRYSTAL BAY—The Mickey Hart Band, Crystal Bay Club, devildogshows.com

ELY—Shepherd's Ball, elynevada.net, 800-496-9350

SIERRA-AT-TAHOE—Buck Up Slopestyle Jam, sierraattahoe.com, 530-659-7453

SPRING CREEK—Ruby Mountain Roping, Horse Palace, springcreeknv.net, 775-753-6510

STATELINE—Lucinda Williams, MontBleu, montbleuresort.com, 888-829-7630

WEST WENDOVER—Little Big Town, Peppermill Concert Hall, wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

JANUARY 22

BOREAL MOUNTAIN RESORT—USASA Superpipe, rideboreal.com, 530-426-3666

KIRKWOOD MOUNTAIN RESORT—Sierra Crest Snowshoe Trek, kirkwood.com, 209-258-7277

NORTHSTAR-AT-TAHOE—Atlas Snowshoe Demo & Tahoe Rim Tour and Race, northstarattahoe.com, 800-466-6784

SPRING CREEK—Cowboy Competition, Horse Palace, springcreeknv.net, 775-753-6510

JANUARY 23

RENO—Steve Aoki, Knitting Factory, re.knittingfactory.com, 775-323-5648

JANUARY 25

SQUAW VALLEY USA—Chinese New Year at Squaw, squaw.com, 530-583-6955

JANUARY 26

RENO—Pairing Dinner w/ Silver Oak Winery, Atlantis, Bistro Napa, atlantiscasino.com, 775-824-4411



"Young Frankenstein," January 27-29

JANUARY 27

RENO—Aaron Lewis of Staind, Silver Legacy, silverlegacyreno.com, 800-687-8733

WEST WENDOVER—Jonny Lang, Peppermill Concert Hall, wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

JANUARY 27-29

RENO—"Young Frankenstein," Broadway Comes to Reno, Pioneer Center, pioneercenter.com, 775-686-6600

JANUARY 28

BOREAL MOUNTAIN RESORT—USASA Boardercross/Skiercross, rideboreal.com, 530-426-3666

CAVE LAKE STATE PARK—Rotary Ice Fishing Derby, elynevada.net, 800-496-9350

FALLON—Patricia Barber Trio, Oats Park Art Center, churchillarts.org, 775-423-1440

RENO—Lei-Tse & Rosanne Lui, Reno Ballroom, silverlegacyreno.com, 800-687-8733

RENO—Styx, Silver Legacy, silverlegacyreno.com, 800-687-8733

WEST WENDOVER—Ronnie Millsap, Peppermill Concert Hall, wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

JANUARY 28-29

RENO—Kuchar/Roge, Reno Chamber Orchestra, Nightingale Concert Hall, renochamberorchestra.org, 775-348-9413

JANUARY 29

BOREAL MOUNTAIN RESORT—USASA Rail Jam, rideboreal.com, 530-426-3666

RENO—The Jayhawks, Knitting Factory, re.knittingfactory.com, 775-323-5648

JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 4

ELKO—National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, town wide, westernfolklife.org, 888-880-5885

JANUARY 31

CRYSTAL BAY—Martin Sexton, Crystal Bay Club, devildogshows.com

FEBRUARY 1

CRYSTAL BAY—Moe, Crystal Bay Club, devildogshows.com

FEBRUARY 1-3

LAKE TAHOE—JazzReach, Arts For the Schools, jazzreach.org, 718-625-5188

FEBRUARY 3

RENO—A Journey through Preludes: Adela H. Park, Nightingale Concert Hall, unr.edu/cia/music/acs, 775-784-6145

RENO—Clint Black, Silver Legacy, silverlegacyreno.com, 800-687-8733

SPARKS—Brew HaHa, Sierra Arts Foundation fundraiser, John Ascuaga's Nugget, sierra-arts.org, 775-329-2787

WEST WENDOVER—Lonestar, Peppermill Concert Hall, wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

FEBRUARY 3-4

YERINGTON—Missoula Children's Theatre, Yerington Theatre for the Arts, yeringtonarts.com, 775-463-1783

FEBRUARY 3-5

ELY—Winter Steam Spectacular, photography symposium, Nevada Northern Railway, nnry.com, 866-407-8326

FEBRUARY 3-17

FALLON—February Film Series ("Rancho Deluxe," Feb. 3; "Cutter's Way," Feb. 10; "Jagged Edge," Feb. 17), Oats Park Art Center, churchillarts.org, 775-423-1440

FEBRUARY 4

BOREAL MOUNTAIN RESORT—USASA Slopestyle, rideboreal.com, 530-426-3666

KIRKWOOD MOUNTAIN RESORT—Full-Moon Snowshoe Trek, kirkwood.com, 209-258-7277

NORTHSTAR-AT-TAHOE—Moonlight Snowshoe Tour, northstarattahoe.com, 800-466-6784

RENO—Attack! Attack!, Knitting Factory, re.knittingfactory.com, 775-323-5648

RENO—Bill Maher, Silver Legacy, silverlegacyreno.com, 800-687-8733

STATELINE—Whitney Cummings, MontBleu, montbleuresort.com, 888-829-7630

WEST WENDOVER—Vince Neil of Motley Crue, Peppermill Concert Hall, wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

WINNEMUCCA—Ducks Unlimited, winnemucca.com, 775-625-1717

FEBRUARY 4-5

SIERRA-AT-TAHOE—Gatorade Free Flow Tour, sierraattahoe.com, 530-659-7453

SPRING CREEK—V Bar L Rodeo Productions, Horse Palace, springcreeknv.net, 775-753-6510

NORTHERN NEVADA

FEBRUARY 5

BOREAL MOUNTAIN RESORT—USASA Superpipe, rideboreal.com, 530-426-3666

INCLINE VILLAGE—Super Bowl Party, Diamond Peak, diamondpeak.com, 775-832-1177

KIRKWOOD MOUNTAIN RESORT—Ski Skate Clinic, kirkwood.com, 209-258-7277

FEBRUARY 6

RENO—Social Distortion, Knitting Factory, re.knittingfactory.com, 775-323-5648

FEBRUARY 9

RENO—Pairing Dinner w/ Schramsberg Cellars, Atlantis, Steakhouse, atlantiscasino.com, 775-824-4411

FEBRUARY 10

INCLINE VILLAGE—Full Moon Snowshoe to Snowflake Lodge, Diamond Peak, diamondpeak.com, 775-832-1177

WEST WENDOVER—Easton Corbin, Peppermill Concert Hall, wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

FEBRUARY 10-11

ELKO—Great Basin College Film Festival, exploreeelko.com, 775-738-4091

JACKPOT—Paul Rodriguez, Cactus Petes, ameristar.com, 800-821-1103

FEBRUARY 10-12

ELY—Winter Steam Spectacular, photography symposium, Nevada Northern Railway, nnry.com, 866-407-8326

FEBRUARY 11

BOREAL MOUNTAIN RESORT—USASA Boardercross, rideboreal.com, 530-426-3666

FALLON—Theodore Waddell: Five Decades of Paint—A Walk Through w/ the Artist, Oats Park Art Center, churchillarts.org, 775-423-1440

NORTHSTAR-AT-TAHOE—Valentine's Day Fun Race, northstarattahoe.com, 800-466-6784

STATELINE—Los Lonely Boys, Harrah's, harrahslaketahoe.com, 800-HARRAHS

WEST WENDOVER—Styx, Peppermill Concert Hall, wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

YERINGTON—Frankie & Johnny—Community Musical Farce, Yerington Theatre for the Arts, yeringtonarts.com, 775-463-1783

FEBRUARY 11-12

KIRKWOOD MOUNTAIN RESORT—Rahves Banzai, kirkwood.com, 209-258-7277

FEBRUARY 11-14

SQUAW VALLEY USA—St. Valentine's Day Celebration, squaw.com, 530-583-6955

FEBRUARY 12

BOREAL MOUNTAIN RESORT—USASA Rail Jam, rideboreal.com, 530-426-3666

INCLINE VILLAGE—Diamond Peak Jiblet, Diamond Peak, diamondpeak.com, 775-832-1177

KIRKWOOD MOUNTAIN RESORT—Sierra Crest Snowshoe Trek, kirkwood.com, 209-258-7277

FEBRUARY 13-16

SIERRA-AT-TAHOE—Snowsports Week, sierraattahoe.com, 530-659-7453

FEBRUARY 14

INCLINE VILLAGE—Valentine's Day Dinner at Snowflake, Diamond Peak, diamondpeak.com, 775-832-1194

LOVELOCK—Lock Your Love, Pershing County Courthouse, loverslock.com, 775-273-7213

FEBRUARY 16

RENO—The Assad Brothers, Nightingale Concert Hall, unr.edu/pas, 775-784-4ART

RENO—Cash'd Out "The Next Best Thing To Johnny Cash," Knitting Factory, re.knittingfactory.com, 775-323-5648

FEBRUARY 17

NORTHSTAR-AT-TAHOE—Star Gazing Snowshoe Tour, northstarattahoe.com, 800-466-6784

RENO—DMX, Knitting Factory, re.knittingfactory.com, 775-323-5648

WEST WENDOVER—Tracy Lawrence, Peppermill Concert Hall, wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

FEBRUARY 17-19

RENO—"Damn Yankees," Broadway Comes to Reno, Pioneer Center, pioneercenter.com, 775-686-6600

FEBRUARY 17-20

NATIONWIDE—Great Backyard Bird Count, birdcount.org, 607-254-2137

FEBRUARY 18

ELKO—POW*MIA Fundraiser Chili Feed, Elko Convention Center, exploreeelko.com, 775-738-4091

KIRKWOOD MOUNTAIN RESORT—Presidents Week Torchlight Parade, kirkwood.com, 209-258-7277

SQUAW VALLEY USA—Helly Hansen Big Mountain Battle, squaw.com, 530-583-6955

WEST WENDOVER—Blue Oyster Cult & Foghat, Peppermill Concert Hall, wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

FEBRUARY 18-19

RENO—Wild Winter Weekend, Animal Ark, animalark.org, 1-775-970-3111

SPRING CREEK—V Bar L Rodeo Productions, Horse Palace, springcreeknv.net, 775-753-6510

WILD HORSE STATE RECREATION AREA—Wild Horse Trout Derby, parks.nv.gov/wh.htm, 775-385-5939

FEBRUARY 18-25

SQUAW VALLEY USA—Kid-O-Rama!, squaw.com, 530-583-6955

FEBRUARY 19

RENO—Chinese Concert, Reno Ballroom, silverlegacypreno.com, 800-687-8733

WEST WENDOVER—Saigon By Night, Peppermill Concert Hall, wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

FEBRUARY 20

RENO—Mat Kearney, Knitting Factory, re.knittingfactory.com, 775-323-5648

FEBRUARY 21

NORTHSTAR-AT-TAHOE—Mardi Gras Celebration, northstarattahoe.com, 800-466-6784

FEBRUARY 22

NORTHSTAR-AT-TAHOE—Family Afternoon Snowshoe Tour, northstarattahoe.com, 800-466-6784

FEBRUARY 24

WEST WENDOVER—Marshall Tucker Band, Peppermill Concert Hall, wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

FEBRUARY 24-25

JACKPOT—The Highwaymen Live, Cactus Petes, ameristar.com, 800-821-1103

FEBRUARY 24-26

CARSON VALLEY—Eagles & Agriculture, photography workshops & wildlife viewing, visitcarsonvalley.org, 800-727-7677

FEBRUARY 25

BOREAL MOUNTAIN RESORT—USASA Boardercross/Skiercross, rideboreal.com, 530-426-3666

KIRKWOOD MOUNTAIN RESORT—Sunset Snowshoe Trek, kirkwood.com, 209-258-7277

NORTHSTAR-AT-TAHOE—TransWorld TransAm, northstarattahoe.com, 800-466-6784

RENO—Dmitri Atapine & Adela H. Park, Nightingale Concert Hall, unr.edu/cia/music/acs, 775-784-6145

RENO—Larry the Cable Guy, Silver Legacy, silverlegacy.com, 800-687-8733

SQUAW VALLEY USA—Squaw Valley Prom, squaw.com, 530-583-6955

WEST WENDOVER—Big Gay Fun Bus (Salt Lake City to West Wendover), biggayfunbus.com

WEST WENDOVER—George Jones, Peppermill Concert Hall, wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

FEBRUARY 25-26

MT. ROSE SKI TAHOE—McKinney Cup—Far West Masters, mtrose.com, 800-SKI-ROSE

FEBRUARY 26

CARSON CITY—Russian Treasures Concert—Carson City Symphony, Community Center, ccsymphony.com, 775-883-4154

RENO—MasterClassics 5: Inspired Tradition, Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, Pioneer Center, pioneercenter.com, 775-686-6600

FEBRUARY 28

RENO—MasterClassics 5: Inspired Tradition, Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, Pioneer Center, pioneercenter.com, 775-686-6600

FEBRUARY 29-MARCH 4

WINNEMUCCA—Ranch Hand Rodeo, Events Center, winnemucca.com, 800-962-2638



SOUTHERN NEVADA

January/February 2012

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Events are in Las Vegas unless otherwise noted. To submit an event or show, e-mail editor@nevadamagazine.com.



ONE-TIME EVENTS

THROUGH JANUARY 1

HENDERSON—Ethel M Holiday Cactus Garden, ethelm.com, 800-680-0150

THROUGH JANUARY 8

"Winter in Venice" holiday celebration, The Venetian & The Palazzo, venetian.com, 702-414-1000

THROUGH JANUARY 15

Battle of the Dance, Flamingo, dark Mon., flamingolasvegas.com, 800-221-7299

THROUGH JANUARY 29

HENDERSON—Skating on The Lake, The Village Lake Las Vegas, montelagovillage.com, 702-564-4785

DECEMBER 27-JANUARY 1

LAUGHLIN—Mel Tillis, Riverside, riversideresort.com, 800-227-3849

DECEMBER 29-JANUARY 1

"F#@! 2011" party, Rockhouse Bar & Nightclub, therockhousebar.com, 702-731-9683

DECEMBER 30-JANUARY 1

Absolution Music Extravaganza, featuring Guns N' Roses & Drake, Hard Rock, ticketmaster.com, 800-745-3000

TributePalooza, Fremont Street Experience, vegasexperience.com, 702-386-8100

LAUGHLIN—International Gift & Craft Show, River Palms, visitlaughlin.com, 714-206-1054

PAHRUMP—Fortunes, Pahrump Nugget, pahrupnugget.com, 775-751-6500

DECEMBER 30-JANUARY 1

DJ Mia Moretti & Caitlin Moe, Cosmopolitan, cosmopolitanlasvegas.com, 877-551-7778

JANUARY 3-8

LAUGHLIN—Happy Birthday to the King w/ Don Rose, Riverside, riversideresort.com, 800-227-3849

JANUARY 5-8

Circus Spectacular, Orleans, orleanscasino.com, 800-675-3267

LAUGHLIN—Cruizin' on the River, Riverside, rivercruizers.com, 928-505-8457

JANUARY 6

MESQUITE—Theatre Play, Mesquite Community Theatre, mesquitenv.com, 702-443-4878

JANUARY 6-7

A Tribute to the Music of John Denver, Silverton, silvertoncasino.com, 702-263-7777

Las Vegas Superstar Challenge, Thomas & Mack Center, unlvtickets.com, 866-388-3267

NORTH LAS VEGAS—Celebration of the King's Life, Cannery, cannerycasino.com, 866-999-4899

JANUARY 6-8

Frankie Avalon, South Point, southpointcasino.com, 866-796-7111

JANUARY 7

Contra New Year Dance, Charleston Heights Arts Center, artslasvegas.org, 702-229-6383

Dennis Wise, Boulder Station, boulderstation.com, 800-745-3000

Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall, pac.unlv.edu, 702-895-2787

Tesla, House of Blues, houseofblues.com, 877-632-7400

LAUGHLIN—Regional Chili Cook-Off, Golden Nugget, chilicookoff.com, 800-950-7700

PRIMM—Bronco, Star of the Desert Arena, primmvalleyresorts.com, 800-386-7867

JANUARY 8

LAUGHLIN—Nevada State Chili Cook-Off, Golden Nugget, chilicookoff.com, 800-950-7700

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

JANUARY 10

LAUGHLIN—Winter Gift Giveaway, Harrah's, harrahslaughlin.com, 702-298-4600

JANUARY 10-12

Miss America 2012, Planet Hollywood, ticketmaster.com, 800-745-3000

JANUARY 11-15

LAUGHLIN—Doug Kershaw, Riverside, riversideresort.com, 800-227-3849

JANUARY 12-14

Las Vegas Premier Motorcycle Auction, Rio, auctionsamerica.com, 260-927-9797

JANUARY 12-15

Disney on Ice, Thomas & Mack Center, unlvtickets.com, 866-388-3267

JANUARY 13

The Cab, Hard Rock Café, hardrock.com, 702-733-7625

Smokey Robinson, Eastside Cannery, eastsidecannery.com, 702-856-5470

LAUGHLIN—\$30K "Cold Hard Cash" Craze, Harrah's, harrahslaughlin.com, 702-298-4600

MESQUITE—Theatre Play, Mesquite Community Theatre, mesquitenv.com, 702-443-4878

JANUARY 13-14

Gene Romero's West Coast Flat Track Series, South Point, southpointeventscenter.com, 866-796-7111

Paul Revere & The Raiders, South Point, southpointcasino.com, 866-796-7111

Paula Poundstone, Orleans, orleanscasino.com, 800-675-3267

NORTH LAS VEGAS—Face to Face: Billy Joel & Elton John Tribute, Cannery, cannerycasino.com, 866-999-4899

JANUARY 13-15

Coin, Currency, Jewelry, & Stamp Expo, Circus Circus, shows.bickinternational.com, 818-997-6496

LAUGHLIN—SCORE Laughlin Desert Challenge, score-international.com, 818-225-8402

JANUARY 13-16

MESQUITE—Motor Mania, Casa Blanca, casablancaresort.com, 877-438-2929

JANUARY 13-29

"Sylvia," Las Vegas Little Theatre, lvlt.org, 702-362-7996



JANUARY 14

Lisa Lampanelli, Palms, palms.com, 702-944-3200

New Year's USA Ballroom Dance, Charleston Heights Arts Center, artsasvegas.org, 702-229-6383

Sonny Geraci, Suncoast, suncoastcasino.com, 877-677-7111

LAUGHLIN—Temptations Review featuring Dennis Edwards, Edgewater, edgewater-casino.com, 702-298-2453

PRIMM—Gerald Albright, Star of the Desert Arena, primmvalleyresorts.com, 800-386-7867

JANUARY 14-15

MESQUITE—Smokin' Big Chili Challenge II, CasaBlanca, casablancaresort.com, 877-438-2929

JANUARY 16-18

LAUGHLIN—Winter Break, Harrah's, visitlaughlin.com, 800-427-7247

JANUARY 17

WWE Smack Down, Thomas & Mack Center, unlvtickets.com, 866-388-3267

JANUARY 17-22

LAUGHLIN—Kingston Trio, Riverside, riversideresort.com, 800-227-3849

JANUARY 19

Wu-Tang Clan, House of Blues, houseofblues.com, 877-632-7400

JANUARY 19-22

"Red," UNLV Marjorie Barrick Museum, arts4nevada.org, 702-895-3381

JANUARY 20

AVN Adult Entertainment Expo, Hard Rock, adultentertainmentexpo.com, 818-718-5788

Zac Brown Band, Mandalay Bay, mandalaybay.com, 877-632-7800

NORTH LAS VEGAS—Aaron Lewis of Staind, Aliante, aliante casinohotel.com, 800-745-3000

JANUARY 20-21

Craig Shoemaker, South Point, southpointcasino.com, 866-796-7111

Semi-Annual Bridal Expo, Cashman Center, visitlasvegas.com, 702-892-0711

Steven Wright, Orleans, orleanscasino.com, 800-675-3267

NORTH LAS VEGAS—Detroit All-Stars, Cannery, cannerycasino.com, 866-999-4899

JANUARY 20-22

Las Vegas Antique Arms Show, Riviera, visitlasvegas.com, 702-892-0711

JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 5

"Measure for Pleasure," Las Vegas Little Theatre, lvt.org, 702-362-7996

JANUARY 21

AVN Awards Show, Hard Rock, adultentertainmentexpo.com, 818-718-5788

Lingerie Football League, Orleans, orleanscasino.com, 800-675-3267

Transit(ion) Trilogy: Emigration Transformation, Dance Studio One, pac.unlv.edu, 702-895-2787

HENDERSON—Firefall, Sunset Station, sunsetstation.com, 702-367-2470

LAUGHLIN—Frankie Valli, Edgewater, edgewater-casino.com, 702-298-2453

MESQUITE—Paige Demille in Concert, Mesquite Community Theatre, mesquitenv.com, 702-346-5966

PRIMM—Engelbert Humperdinck, Star of the Desert Arena, primmvalleyresorts.com, 800-386-7867

SPRING VALLEY STATE PARK—Ice Tee Golf Tournament, Pioche, parks.nv.gov/sv.htm, 77-728-4460

JANUARY 23- FEBRUARY 3

RACHEL—Red Flag 12-1 air exercises, rachel-nevada.com, 775-729-2515

JANUARY 24-29

LAUGHLIN—The Vogues, Riverside, riversideresort.com, 800-227-3849

JANUARY 25

George Winston: A Solo Piano Concert, Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall, pac.unlv.edu, 702-895-2787

JANUARY 26

Europa Galante w/ Fabio Biondi & Vivica Genaux, Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall, pac.unlv.edu, 702-895-2787

JANUARY 27

Social Distortion, Hard Rock, hardrockhotel.com, 800-693-7625

The Toasters, Hard Rock Café, hardrock.com, 702-733-7625

JANUARY 27-28

Bob Saget, Orleans, orleanscasino.com, 800-675-3267

NORTH LAS VEGAS—Lights: Tribute to Journey, Cannery, cannerycasino.com, 866-999-4899

JANUARY 27-29

Peter Dinklage, South Point, southpointcasino.com, 866-796-7111

"The Seagull," Judy Bayley Theatre, pac.unlv.edu, 702-895-2787

JANUARY 28

Brad Paisley, Mandalay Bay, mandalaybay.com, 877-632-7800

Eric Johnson, House of Blues, houseofblues.com, 877-632-7400

Nevada Ballet Theatre's Black & White Ball, Aria, nevadaballet.org, 702-243-2623

HENDERSON—Aaron Lewis of Staind, Green Valley Ranch, greenvalleyranchresort.com, 800-745-3000

PRIMM—Easton Corbin, Star of the Desert Arena, primmvalleyresorts.com, 800-386-7867

RED ROCK CANYON—Astronomy in the Park, Ivastronomy.com, 702-461-1390

JANUARY 29

Beautiful Bride Expo, Rio, beautifulbrideexpo.com, 702-792-2378

JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 10

NORTH LAS VEGAS—SchoolFest, featuring "A Midsummer Night's Dream," College of Southern Nevada's Performing Arts Center, csn.edu/pac, 702-651-4720

JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 4

LAUGHLIN—Jack Jones, Riverside, riversideresort.com, 800-227-3849

FEBRUARY 1

August Burns Red, House of Blues, houseofblues.com, 877-632-7400

FEBRUARY 2-4

Las Vegas International Sportsmen's Expo, Las Vegas Convention Center, visitlasvegas.com, 702-892-0711

FEBRUARY 2-5

"The Seagull," Judy Bayley Theatre, pac.unlv.edu, 702-895-2787

FEBRUARY 3

Ace Frehley, Santa Fe Station, santafestationlasvegas.com, 800-745-3000

Adam Ant, Hard Rock Café, hardrock.com, 702-733-7625

FEBRUARY 3-4

Dana Carvey, Orleans, orleanscasino.com, 800-675-3267

Josh Wolf, South Point, southpointcasino.com, 866-796-7111

FEBRUARY 3-19

Mötley Crüe in Sin City, Hard Rock, thejointlasvegas.com, 800-745-3000

FEBRUARY 4

George Strait w/ Martina McBride, MGM Grand, mgmgrand.com, 800-745-3000

"Love is Here to Stay" Concert, Historic Fifth Street School, artsasvegas.org, 702-229-3515

DEATH VALLEY—Borax Marathon, Half Marathon, & 10K, envirosports.com

HENDERSON—Cherry Poppin' Daddies, Green Valley Ranch, greenvalleyranchresort.com, 800-745-3000

MESQUITE—Jewelry & Purse Show, River Room, casablancaresort.com, 877-438-2929

FEBRUARY 5

Big Game Extravaganza, McFadden's, mcfaddensvegas.com, 702-270-6200


Super Bowl XLIV (check local listings for NFL-related events)

FEBRUARY 6-8

MESQUITE—Mesquite's Branson Fest Out West, CasaBlanca, mesquitebransonfest.com, 888-278-9844



FEBRUARY 7-11


LAUGHLIN—The Osmond Brothers, Riverside, riversideresort.com, 800-227-3849



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S O U T H E R N N E V A D A

FEBRUARY 8-9

Junie B. Jones, Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall, pac.unlv.edu, 702-895-2787

FEBRUARY 8-11

BOULDER CITY—Dam Short Film Festival, Boulder Theatre, damshortfilm.org, 702-509-4326

FEBRUARY 9

Attack Attack!, Hard Rock Café, hardrock.com, 702-733-7625

Children of Bodom, House of Blues, houseofblues.com, 877-632-7400

FEBRUARY 9-12

USA Sevens International Rugby Tournament, Sam Boyd Stadium, usasevens.com, 888-RUGBY-7S

FEBRUARY 10

Michael Lington, Santa Fe Station, santafestationlasvegas.com, 800-745-3000

HENDERSON—Henderson Symphony Orchestra, Convention Center, hendersonlive.com, 702-267-2171

HENDERSON—Styx, Green Valley Ranch, greenvalleyranchresort.com, 800-745-3000

FEBRUARY 10-11

NORTH LAS VEGAS—Led Zepagain, Cannery, cannerycasino.com, 866-999-4899

FEBRUARY 10-12

Crystal Gayle, South Point, southpointcasino.com, 866-796-7111

FEBRUARY 11

Itzhak Perlman, Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall, pac.unlv.edu, 702-895-2787

JOE, Boulder Station, boulderstation.com, 800-745-3000

Sterling Night of Fights, Riviera, rivierahotel.com, 877-892-7469

Vegas Pet Expo, Cashman Center, vegaspetexpo.com, 800-977-3609

Veterans Valentines Ball & Gala, Plaza Hotel, veteransinpolitics.com, 702-238-5134

MESQUITE—Puttin' on the Ritz, CasaBlanca, mesquitenv.com, 702-346-7173

PAHRUMP—Pioneer Territory CASA Mardi Gras Ball, Mountain Falls Grill Room, pahrumphchamber.com, 702-592-5276

PAHRUMP—Valentine Dance Celebration, Saddle West, pahrumphchamber.com, 775-727-5800

FEBRUARY 11-12

Richard Marx, Orleans, orleanscasino.com, 800-675-3267

FEBRUARY 14

Made in USA, Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall, pac.unlv.edu, 702-895-2787

FEBRUARY 15

Harlem Globetrotters, Orleans, orleanscasino.com, 800-675-3267

FEBRUARY 16

MESQUITE—"A Midsummer Nights Dream," Virgin Valley High School, mesquitenv.com, 702-346-5966

FEBRUARY 17

Big Time Rush, Planet Hollywood, ticketmaster.com, 800-745-3000

The Slackers, Hard Rock Café, hardrock.com, 702-733-7625

FEBRUARY 17-18

NORTH LAS VEGAS—KISS Experience, Cannery, cannerycasino.com, 866-999-4899

FEBRUARY 17-19

Destination Spa Weekend, Caesars Palace, Qua Baths & Spa, quabathsandspa.com, 866-782-0655

"The Nevada Series Tour Show," by Rainbow Company Theater, Historic Fifth Street School, artslasvegas.org, 702-229-3515

LAUGHLIN—Coin, Currency, Jewelry, & Stamp Expo, Colorado Belle, shows.bickinternational.com, 818-997-6496

FEBRUARY 17-20

NATIONWIDE—Great Backyard Bird Count, birdcount.org, 607-254-2137

FEBRUARY 18

The Expendables, House of Blues, houseofblues.com, 877-632-7400

Fresh Beat Band, Planet Hollywood, ticketmaster.com, 800-745-3000

Masterworks III—Rising Star Performance, Las Vegas Philharmonic, Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall, pac.unlv.edu, 702-895-2787

Mickey Gilley, Treasure Island, treasureisland.com, 800-392-1999

HENDERSON—POCO, Sunset Station, sunsetstation.com, 702-367-2470

LAUGHLIN—Smokey Robinson, Edgewater, edgewater-casino.com, 702-298-2453

FEBRUARY 18-19

BOULDER CITY—Nevada State Champs, Bootleg Canyon, bouldercitychamberofcommerce.com, 518-524-9805

FEBRUARY 19

John Wackerman Drum Festival, South Point, southpointcasino.com, 866-796-7111

FEBRUARY 20

Iced Earth & Symphony X, House of Blues, houseofblues.com, 877-632-7400

FEBRUARY 21-26

LAUGHLIN—Mickey Gilley, Riverside, riversideresort.com, 800-227-3849

FEBRUARY 23

The Witch & the Lady, UNLV Wind Orchestra, Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall, pac.unlv.edu, 702-895-2787

FEBRUARY 24

Melissa Manchester, Boulder Station,

boulderstation.com, 800-745-3000

HENDERSON—Jon Anderson of Yes, Green Valley Ranch, greenvalleyranchresort.com, 800-745-3000

NORTH LAS VEGAS—Mat Kearney, Aliante, aliantecasino.com, 800-745-3000

NORTH LAS VEGAS—N Demand, Cannery, cannerycasino.com, 866-999-4899

FEBRUARY 24-25

HENDERSON—Gospel Fest, Black Mountain Recreation Center, hendersonlive.com, 702-267-4070

MESQUITE—Western Roundup, cowboy poetry & music, Community Theatre, mesquitenv.com, 702-346-5966

FEBRUARY 24-26

Steve Byrne, South Point, southpointcasino.com, 866-796-7111

PAHRUMP—Quilt & Fiber Arts Show, Pahump Nugget, e-mail: joyceinpahrump@gmail.com, 775-751-4944

FEBRUARY 24-MARCH 11

"Play Dates," Las Vegas Little Theatre, lvlt.org, 702-362-7996

FEBRUARY 25

The Budos Band, Hard Rock, hardrockhotel.com, 800-693-7625

Die Antwoord, House of Blues, houseofblues.com, 877-632-7400

HENDERSON—Little River Band, Green Valley Ranch, greenvalleyranchresort.com, 800-745-3000

NORTH LAS VEGAS—Adal Ramones, Texas Station, texasstation.com, 800-745-3000

NORTH LAS VEGAS—Rob Garret's Tribute to Neil Diamond, Cannery, cannerycasino.com, 866-999-4899

SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH STATE PARK—Astronomy in the Park, lvastronomy.com, 702-461-1390

FEBRUARY 25-26

The Oak Ridge Boys, Orleans, orleanscasino.com, 800-675-3267

ONGOING SHOWS

"Absinthe," Caesars Palace, dark Mon., absinthevegas.com, 800-745-3000

The Amazing Johnathan, Harmon Theater, dark Sun. & Mon., harmontheater.com, 702-836-0836

American Badass, Santa Fe Station, Fri., santafestationlasvegas.com, 866-264-1818

"An Evening at La Cage," Four Queens, dark Mon. & Tues., lacagefourqueens.com, 800-634-6045

Anthony Cools, Paris, dark Mon. & Wed., parislasvegas.com, 877-374-7469

The Australian Bee Gees Show, Excalibur, dark Fri., excalibur.com, 702-597-7600

Banda Tierra Sagrada, Boulder Station, Sun., boulderstation.com, 866-264-1818

Barbra & Frank: The Concert That Never Was, Westin Casuarina, daily, barbraandfrank.com, 702-449-8235



S O U T H E R N N E V A D A

Barry Manilow, Paris, TBD, manilowparis.com, 800-745-3000

"The Beatles LOVE," by Cirque du Soleil, Mirage, dark Tues. & Wed., mirage.com, 800-963-9634

"BeatleShow!" Saxe Theater, nightly, saxetheater.com, 702-318-6490

Big Elvis, Bill's Gamblin' Hall & Saloon, dark Sat. & Sun., billslasvegas.com, 866-245-5745

"Black's Magic," Giordano Theatre, dark Mon., giordanotheatres.com, 702-650-7677

Blue Man Group, The Venetian, nightly (dark Jan. 5 & Feb. 5), venetian.com, 800-258-3626

Boulder Blues, Boulder Station, first & third Thurs. of the month, boulderstation.com, 866-264-1818

Carrot Top, Luxor, dark Tues., luxor.com, 702-262-4400

Celine Dion, Caesars Palace; Jan. 3-4, 7-8, 10-11, 14-15, 17-18, 20, 22; Feb. 22, 25, 26, 28, 29; thecolosseum.com, 877-423-5463

Circus Acts, Circus Circus, daily, circuscircus.com, 702-734-0410

Claudine Castro Band, Eastside Cannery, Mon., eastsidecannery.com, 702-856-5470

"Confessions of a Rock Star," Riviera, dark Tues., rivierahotel.com, 800-634-3420

Cook E. Jarr, Bill's Gamblin' Hall & Saloon, Sat. & Sun., billslasvegas.com, 866-245-5745

Corro-VanSuch, Tuscany Suites, dark Mon., tuscanylv.com, 702-893-8933

Country Superstars Tribute, Golden Nugget, dark Sun. & Mon., goldennugget.com, 702-386-8100

"CRISS ANGEL Believe" by Cirque du Soleil, Luxor, dark Sun. & Mon., luxor.com, 702-262-4400

Daniel Tosh, Mirage, Feb. 3-4, mirage.com, 800-963-9634

Darby O'Gill, Palace Station, Fri., palacestation.com, 702-367-2411

David Copperfield, MGM Grand, Jan. 1-11, mgmgrand.com, 800-929-1111

David Spade, The Venetian; Jan. 13-14, 20-21; Feb. 17-18; venetian.com, 866-641-7469

"Defending the Caveman," Harrah's, daily & nightly, harrahsLasvegas.com, 702-369-5111

Déjà Vu, South Point, Wed., southpointcasino.com, 866-796-7111

The Dennis Bono Show, South Point, Thurs., southpointcasino.com, 866-796-7111

Dirk Arthur's "Wild Magic," O'Sheas, dark Sun., lventertainment.com, 800-221-7299

Donny & Marie Osmond, Flamingo, dark Sun. & Mon., flamingolasvegas.com, 800-221-7299

Elton John: "The Million Dollar Piano," Caesars Palace; Feb. 9-11, 14, 16-18; thecolosseum.com, 800-745-3000

Frank Marino's "Divas Las Vegas," Imperial Palace, dark Fri., imperialpalace.com, 888-777-7664

WORTH A CLICK



Read Nevada Magazine's sister publication, Las Vegas Events & Shows, at nevadamagazine.com/nevada-events-and-shows.

Frankie Moreno, Stratosphere; Wed., Fri., & Sat.; stratospherehotel.com, 702-380-7777

Franky Perez, Red Rock, Sat., redrocklasvegas.com, 702-797-7777

"Fitz of Laughter," Fitzgeralds, nightly, fitzgeraldslasvegas.com, 702-752-7000

Garth Brooks, Wynn Las Vegas; Jan. 5-7, 27-28; Feb. 17-18; wylnLasvegas.com, 702-770-1000

George Wallace, Flamingo, dark Sun. & Mon. & Jan. 3-7, 10-14, flamingolasvegas.com, 800-221-7299

Gilley's Saloon Live Country Music, Treasure Island, Fri. & Sat., treasureisland.com, 866-712-9308

Gordie Brown, Golden Nugget, dark Sun. & Mon., goldennugget.com, 702-386-8100

"Greg London—Impressions That Rock!," Hilton, dark Tues. & Fri., lvhilton.com, 800-222-5361

"Hitzville—The Show," Variety Theater, dark Sun., varietytheater.com, 866-932-1818

Human Nature, Imperial Palace, dark Thurs. & Fri. & Jan. 1-6, Feb. 27-29, imperialpalace.com, 888-777-7664

Hypnotiq Show, Harmon Theater, nightly, harmontheater.com, 702-836-0836

"iCandy Burlesque," Tropicana, Thurs.-Sat., tropiclv.com, 702-739-2222

"ILLUSIONS," Clarion, dark Wed., illusionsvegas.com, 702-800-5888

Jabbawockeez—"MÜS.I.C.," Monte Carlo, dark Tues. & Wed., montecarlo.com, 877-386-8224

Jay Leno, Mirage, Mar. 16, mirage.com, 800-963-9634

Jazz in Tempo Lounge, Hilton, Fri. & Sat., lvhilton.com, 800-222-5361

"Jersey Boys," The Palazzo, dark Mon., palazzolasvegas.com, 866-641-7469

Joan Rivers, The Venetian, TBD, venetian.com, 866-641-7469

John Edward, Flamingo, TBD, flamingolasvegas.com, 800-221-7299

"KÀ" by Cirque du Soleil, MGM Grand, dark Sun. & Mon., mgmgrand.com, 800-929-1111

"Le Rêve—The Dream," Wynn Las Vegas, dark Wed. & Thurs., wylnLasvegas.com, 702-770-9966

"Legends in Concert," Harrah's, dark Sat., harrahsLasvegas.com, 702-369-5111

Lewis Black, Mirage, May 18-19, mirage.com, 800-963-9634

Louie Anderson in "Louie LOL," Palace Station, dark Sun. & Mon., palacestation.com, 702-547-5300

The Mac King Comedy Magic Show, Harrah's, dark Sun. & Mon., harrahsLasvegas.com, 702-369-5222

"The Magic of Paris," Paris, dark Mon. & Wed., parisLasvegas.com, 877-374-7469

Marc Savard—Comedy Hypnosis, Variety Theater, dark Fri., varietytheater.com, 866-932-1818

"Marriage Can Be Murder," Fitzgeralds, nightly, fitzgeraldslasvegas.com, 702-388-2400

Matt Goss, Caesars Palace, Fri. & Sat., caesarspalace.com, 800-745-3000

"Menopause The Musical," Luxor, nightly, luxor.com, 702-262-4400

"The Mentalist Live!," Variety Theater, dark Wed., varietytheater.com, 866-932-1818

"Mystère" by Cirque du Soleil, Treasure Island, dark Thurs. & Fri., treasureisland.com, 866-712-9308

"Name That Tune Live!," Imperial Palace, dark Fri. & Jan. 1, imperialpalace.com, 888-777-7664

Napoleon's Dueling Piano Lounge, Paris, nightly, parisLasvegas.com, 800-722-5597

Naughty Boys Hypnosis Show, Clarion; Mon., Wed., Fri., & Sat.; clarionhotelvegas.com, 702-952-8000

Nathan Burton, Flamingo, dark Mon., flamingolasvegas.com, 800-221-7299

"Nunsense," Hilton, dark Fri., lvhilton.com, 800-222-5361

"O" by Cirque du Soleil, Bellagio, dark Mon. & Tues., bellagio.com, 888-488-7111

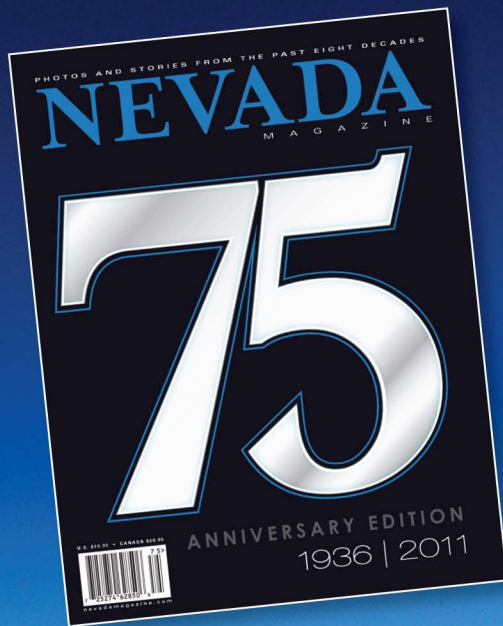
Penn & Teller, Rio, dark Thurs. & Fri., riolasvegas.com, 702-777-7776

Pete's Dueling Piano Bar, Town Square Las Vegas, dark Sun. & Mon., petesduelingpianobar.com, 702-220-7383

"Phantom: The Las Vegas Spectacular," The Venetian, dark Sun., venetian.com, 866-641-7469

The Platters, The Cornell Gunter Coasters, & The Marvellettes, Rio, nightly, thecrownvegas.com, 888-727-6966

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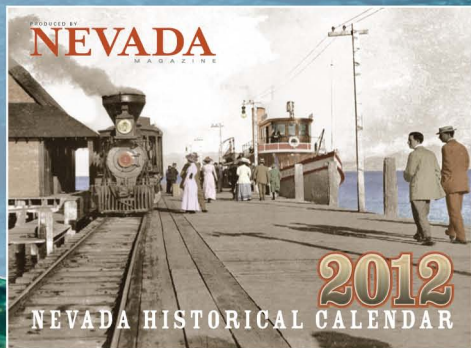
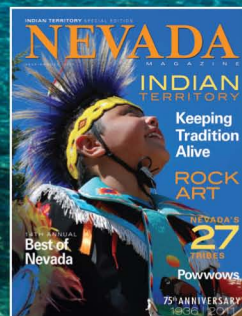


PHOTO: NORTH LAKE TAHOE RESORT ASSOCIATION



NEVADA

MAGAZINE

Telling the Silver State's story since 1936.

S O U T H E R N N E V A D A

Popovich's Comedy Pet Theater, Variety Theater, dark Wed., varietytheater.com, 866-932-1818

"The Price is Right Live," Bally's, dark Mon. & Tues., ballyslasvegas.com, 877-374-7469

Purple Reign: The Ultimate Prince Tribute Show, Hooters, Thurs.-Sun., hooterscasinohotel.com, 866-584-6687

Radio Flyers, Palace Station, Thurs., palacestation.com, 702-367-2411

"The Rat Pack is Back," Crown Theater, nightly, thecrownvegas.com, 888-727-6966

Ray Romano & Kevin James, Mirage, Feb. 17-18, mirage.com, 800-963-9634

Recycled Percussion, Tropicana, dark Wed., troplv.com, 702-739-2411

Remembering Red—A Tribute to Red Skelton, Westin Casuarina, Mon. & Tues., redskeltoncomedyshow.com, 800-595-4849

Rick Faugno, Hilton, Fri., lvhilton.com, 800-222-5361

Rita Rudner, The Venetian, shows begin Jan. 15, venetian.com, 866-641-7469

Rod Stewart: The Hits., Caesars Palace; Mar. 24-25, 28, 31; Apr. 1, 4, 6-7; thecolosseum.com, 800-745-3000

Ron White, Mirage, Mar. 2-3, 30-31, mirage.com, 800-963-9634

Sandy Hackett's Rat Pack Show, Hilton, Tues., lvhilton.com, 800-222-5361

Santa Fe & The Fat City Horns, Palms, Mon., palms.com, 702-944-3200

"Senses," Giordano Theatre, dark Mon., giordanotheatres.com, 702-650-7677

"Shades of Sinatra," Clarion, Tues. & Thurs., clarionhotelvegas.com, 702-952-8000

Shania Twain, Caesars Palace; Dec. 1-2, 5-6, 8-9, 11-12, 14-15; thecolosseum.com, 800-745-3000

"Show in the Sky," Rio, Thurs.-Sun., riolasvegas.com, 888-746-7784

"Sirens of TI," Treasure Island, nightly, treasureisland.com, 866-712-9308

Spazmatics, South Point, Sat., southpointcasino.com, 866-796-7111

Steel Panther, House of Blues, Fri., houseofblues.com, 702-632-7600

Terry Fator: Ventriloquism in Concert, Mirage, dark Sun. & Mon., mirage.com, 800-963-9634

Tim Allen, The Venetian, Feb. 3-4, venetian.com, 866-641-7469

"Tony n' Tina's Wedding," Variety Theater, dark Thurs., varietytheater.com, 866-932-1818

"Tournament of Kings," Excalibur, dark Tues., excalibur.com, 702-597-7600

Trent Carlini as "The King," dark Tues., lvhilton.com, 800-222-5361

"V—The Ultimate Variety Show," Variety Theater, nightly, varietytheater.com, 866-932-1818

"Vegas! The Show," Saxe Theater, nightly, vegastheshow.com, 702-260-7200

"Viva ELVIS" by Cirque du Soleil, Aria, dark Sun. & Mon., ariallasvegas.com, 877-25-ELVIS

"Voices of a Generation," starring Rich Natole, Giordano Theatre, dark Mon., giordanotheatres.com, 702-650-7677

Wes Winters, South Point, Fri. & Sat., southpointcasino.com, 866-796-7111

The Will Edwards Show, theatre7, second & fourth Wed. of the month, theatre7lv.com, 702-568-9663

Wings Over the Springs—Live Bird of Prey Show, Springs Preserve, Sat. & Sun., springspreserve.org, 702-822-7700

Yellow Brick Road, South Point, Fri., southpointcasino.com, 866-796-7111

Yellow Brick Road, Boulder Station, Sat., boulderstation.com, 866-264-1818

Young Guns, Santa Fe Station, Thurs., santafestationlasvegas.com, 866-264-1818

Zowie Bowie, Red Rock, Fri., redrocklasvegas.com, 702-797-7777

"ZUMANITY, the Sensual Side of Cirque du Soleil," New York-New York, dark Mon. & Thurs., nynyhotelcasino.com, 866-606-7111

"2 Kings," Crown Theater, dark Mon., thecrownvegas.com, 888-727-6966

TOPLESS REVUES

"Bite," Stratosphere, dark Tues., stratospherehotel.com, 702-380-7777

"Crazy Girls," Riviera, dark Tues., rivierahotel.com, 877-892-7469

"Crazy Horse Paris," MGM Grand, dark Tues., mgmgrand.com, 800-929-1111

Donn Arden's "Jubilee!" Bally's Las Vegas, dark Fri., ballyslasvegas.com, 800-237-7469

"FANTASY," Luxor, nightly, luxor.com, 702-262-4400

"PEEPSHOW," Planet Hollywood, dark Wed., ticketmaster.com, 800-745-3000

"Raack N Roll," Hooters, Fri.-Sun., hooterscasinohotel.com, 866-584-6687

"X" Burlesque, Flamingo, nightly, flamingolasvegas.com, 800-221-7299

MALE REVUES

"American Storm," Variety Theater, Fri. & Sat., varietytheater.com, 866-932-1818

Chippendales, Rio, dark Wed., riolasvegas.com, 702-777-7776

"Men of X," Hooters, Fri.-Sun., hooterscasinohotel.com, 866-584-6687

"Thunder From Down Under," Excalibur, nightly, excalibur.com, 702-597-7600

COMEDY SHOWS

Bonkerz Comedy Club, Palace Station, various days, palacestation.com, 702-367-2411

Brad Garrett's Comedy Club, Tropicana, nightly, troplv.com, 800-829-9034

Big Al's Comedy Club, The Orleans, TBD, orleanscasino.com, 702-365-7111

The Dirty Joke Show, Hooters, dark Fri., hooterscasinohotel.com, 866-584-6687

Icons of Comedy, Hilton, dark Mon. & Tues., lvhilton.com, 800-222-5361

The Improv, Harrah's, dark Mon., harrahsลาสvegas.com, 702-369-5223

King's Comedy Club, Rio, daily, thecrownvegas.com, 888-727-6966

L.A. Comedy Club, Four Queens, dark Mon., tickets.fourqueens.com, 800-634-6045

Las Vegas Comedy Show Featuring Joe Lowers, Alexis Park, dark Sun. & Mon., thelasvegascomedyshow.com, 702-627-0715

Mike Hammer Comedy Magic Show, Four Queens, dark Sun. & Mon., tickets.fourqueens.com, 800-634-6045

Playboy Comedy, Palms, Thurs.-Sat., palms.com, 702-944-3200

Riviera Comedy Club, Riviera, nightly, rivierahotel.com, 877-892-7469

Sin City Comedy Show, Variety Theater, nightly, varietytheater.com, 866-932-1818

Vinnie Favorito, Flamingo, nightly, flamingolasvegas.com, 800-221-7299

LAUGHLIN—Comedy on the Edge!, Edgewater, Fri.-Sun., edgewater-casino.tix.com, 702-298-2453

SHOWS OUTSIDE LAS VEGAS

DEATH VALLEY JUNCTION—"The Sitting Down Show," starring Marta Becket, Amargosa Opera House, Sun. thru May 5, amargosa-opera-house.com, 760-852-4441

HENDERSON—Loophole, Green Valley Ranch, first Thurs. of the month, greenvalleyranchresort.com, 866-264-1818

HENDERSON—Guilty Pleasures, Green Valley Ranch, third Thurs. of the month, greenvalleyranchresort.com, 702-617-7777

HENDERSON—The Lon Bronson All-Star Band, Green Valley Ranch, second & fourth Thurs. of the month, greenvalleyranchresort.com, 866-264-1818

HENDERSON—Sin City Sinners, Sunset Station, Fri., sunsetstation.com, 702-367-2470

HENDERSON—Threedom Rock, Fiesta Henderson, Fri., fiestahendersonlasvegas.com, 702-567-7905

HENDERSON—The Brian Lee Duo, Fiesta Henderson, Sat., fiestahendersonlasvegas.com, 702-567-7905

HENDERSON—Steel Panther, Green Valley Ranch,

Sat., greenvalleyranchresort.com, 866-264-1818

HENDERSON—The Strung Out Sessions, Sunset Station, Sat., sunsetstation.com, 702-367-2470

LAUGHLIN—Pat O'Brien, Tropicana, dark Mon., tropicanax.com, 800-243-6846

NORTH LAS VEGAS—Domingos Celestiales, Fiesta Rancho, Sun., fiestarancholasvegas.com, 702-367-2470

NORTH LAS VEGAS—Otherwise, Aliante, Fri., aliantecasino.com, 800-678-2846

NORTH LAS VEGAS—Volume 1, Fiesta Rancho, Fri., fiestarancholasvegas.com, 702-367-2470

NORTH LAS VEGAS—El Moreno Carrillo y Su Banda Tierra Sagrada, Fiesta Rancho, Sat., fiestarancholasvegas.com, 702-367-2470

NORTH LAS VEGAS—Caliente Noche Latina, Aliante Station, Sat., aliantecasino.com, 877-477-7627

NORTH LAS VEGAS—The Strung Out Sessions, Texas Station, Fri., texasstation.com, 702-631-1000

ONGOING EXHIBITS

THROUGH JANUARY 9

Rumor de Lobos Grandes: Endi Poskovic Selected Prints, Historic Fifth Street School, arts4lasvegas.org, 702-229-1012

THROUGH JANUARY 14

Jerry Misko's "Miskopolitan Cosmonaut," The Cosmopolitan, cosmopolitanlasvegas.com, 702-698-7140

THROUGH JANUARY 22

Bryan Christiansen: Trophy Hunter, Springs Preserve, springspreserve.org, 702-822-7700

Lost Places in the Mojave: Photographs by Julian Kilker, UNLV Marjorie Barrick Museum, arts4nevada.org, 702-895-3381

THROUGH JANUARY 26

A Walk on the Wild Side, Bridge Gallery, City Hall, arts4lasvegas.org, 702-229-1012

THROUGH JANUARY 27

HENDERSON—Dolores Nast Gallery Exhibit, Multigenerational Center, hendersonlive.com, 702-267-2171

THROUGH JANUARY 31

A Tribe of Artists: Costumes & Culture At Burning Man, Art Institute of Las Vegas Gallery, nac.nevadaculture.org, 702-369-9944

THROUGH MARCH 3

NORTH LAS VEGAS—A Retrospective: Calvin Jones, Left of Center Art Gallery, leftofcenterart.org, 702-647-7378

THROUGH APRIL

Cameron Grant's "Unexpected Nevada," Nevada

State Museum, nevadaculture.org, 702-486-5205

THROUGH MAY 5

"Mama's Fabric" Visual Arts Exhibit, West Las Vegas Arts Center Gallery, arts4lasvegas.org, 702-229-4800

JANUARY 6-MAY 6

HENDERSON—What Continues the Dream: Contemporary Arts & Crafts From the Powwow Tradition, Clark County Museum, nac.nevadaculture.org, 702-455-7955

JANUARY 13-APRIL 2

Maya—A Thirty Year Retrospective: Photographs by Michael Plyler, UNLV Marjorie Barrick Museum, arts4nevada.org, 702-895-3381

FEBRUARY 6-MARCH 9

HENDERSON—Judy Long Gallery Exhibit, Multigenerational Center, hendersonlive.com, 702-267-2171

LIST YOUR EVENT IN NEVADA MAGAZINE

The calendar deadline is AT LEAST TWO MONTHS in advance of the issue in which the event is to appear. The deadline for the May/June 2012 issue is **no later than March 1**. Send event information to editor@nevadamagazine.com, or call 775-687-0602.

2012 Uncorked & ON TAPSM

Don't miss out on these amazing events in 2012! In its 8th year, our winemaker series has surpassed expectations, hosting some of the finest wineries located on the west coast. The Cactus Creek Prime Steakhouse will host four of these dinners in 2012 alone. The Brewmaster Series will continue this year at the Branding Iron Cafe, which will include a 5 course meal with accompanying beer! Stay tuned for more details.

We look forward to serving you!

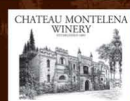


www.BonanzaCasino.com



2012 Winemaker Dinner Series

BONANZA CASINO'S
CACTUS CREEK
PRIME STEAKHOUSE



February 6, 2012
Chateau Montelena
Vineyards



June 4, 2012
Grgich Hills
Estate



October 1, 2012
Robert Keenan
Winery



December 3, 2012
Duckhorn
Vineyards

2012 BREWMASTER SERIES

**BRANDING IRON
CAFE**



July 28, 2012
Kona Brewing Company Luau Dinner

**SAMUEL
ADAMS**

October 20, 2012
Samuel Adams Oktoberfest Dinner

*All food and wines are subject to change at any time based on seasonal availability.

GRAND CANYON/HOOVER DAM

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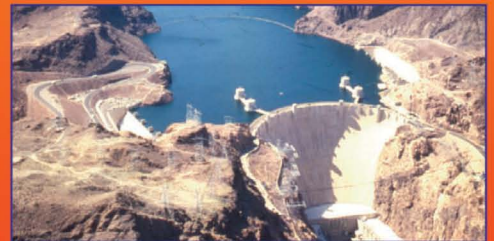
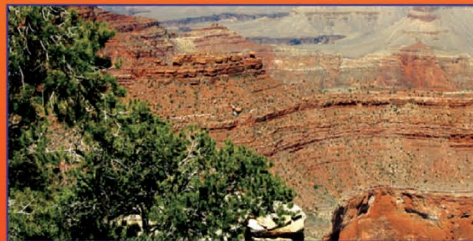
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- Travel by motorcoach through the Joshua Tree Forest to the West Rim of the Grand Canyon
- Meet your hosts, the Hualapai Indians
- Visit spectacular Guano Point
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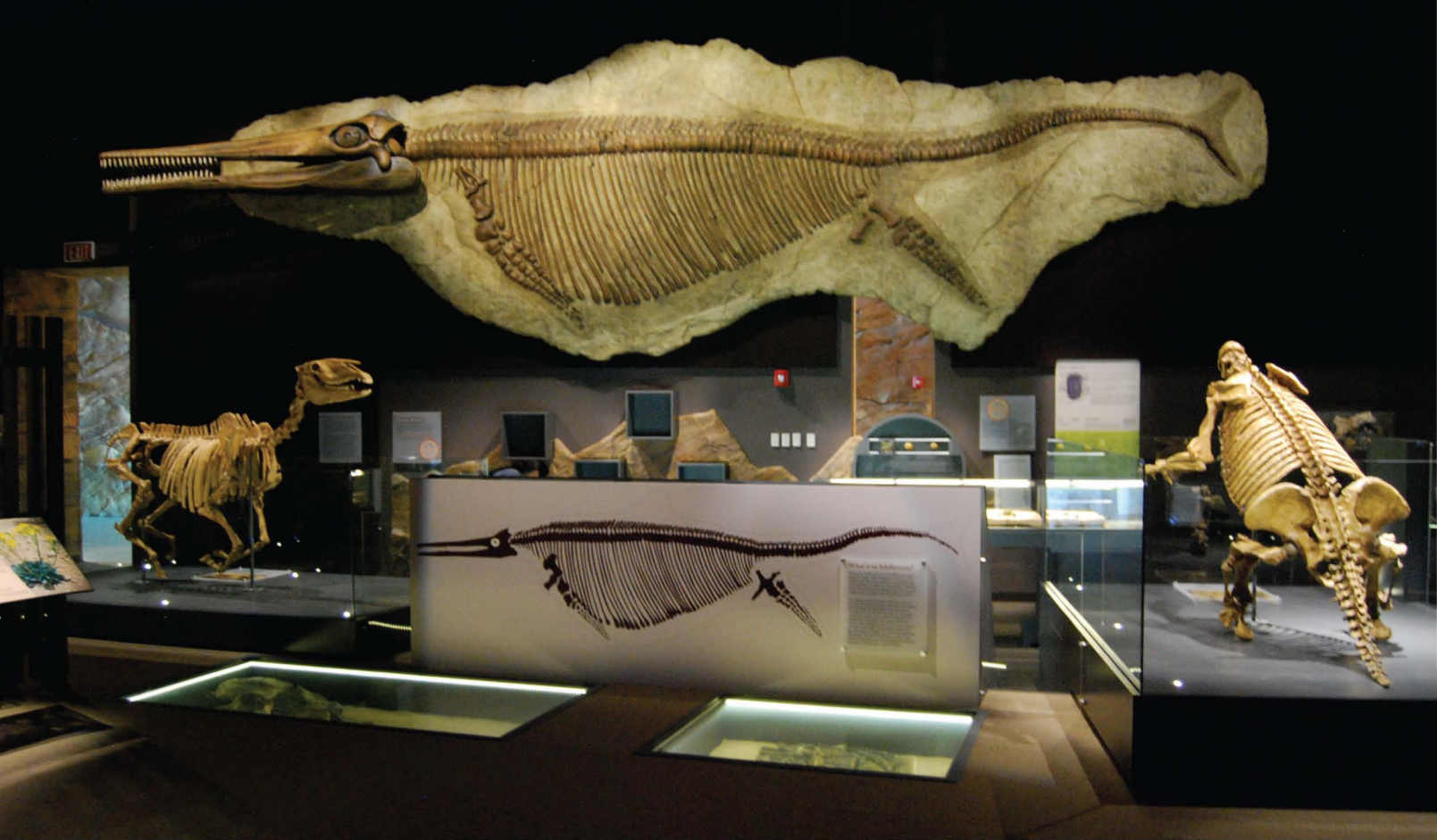
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MATTHEW B. BROWN

Experience the cultural side of Las Vegas and beyond.

BY CHARLIE JOHNSTON

The December 2011 issue of *National Geographic* magazine includes a brief article about the most influential cities in the world according to the Global Cities Index. One of the five criteria upon which the cities are ranked is cultural experience, e.g., venues for the performing arts and museums. With its beautiful new Nevada State Museum at Springs Preserve and nearly 20 more fascinating facilities dedicated to topics ranging from atomic testing to antique neon signs, Las Vegas—though not yet on the Global Cities Index—and its neighboring communities offer a broader cultural experience than many people realize.

SOUTHERN NEVADA MUSEUM



CHARLIE JOHNSTON

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM, LAS VEGAS

"There are moments for me that I will remember where I was—big moments in the history of the State of Nevada," said Governor Brian Sandoval during the November 12, 2011 dedication of the new Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas. "And this is one of them." Following more than 10 years of work, the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas opened last October at its new 70,000-square-foot home at Springs Preserve. And take it from someone who has visited most of the museums in the state, the governor's lauding tribute to the facility is just.

A replica of the oldest living thing on earth and Nevada's state tree, the bristlecone pine, greets guests in a grand foyer filled with natural light. A life-sized skeleton of a Columbian Mammoth guards the main exhibit space, where the state's

history dating back hundreds of millions of years is laid out in an artful chronology. Exhibits that explore the state's geological and natural history include interactive touch-screen monitors, lifelike recordings and models of animals, and fossils including a more than 30-foot-long ichthyosaur, the state's official fossil.

Nevada's substantial mining history is explored with interactive exhibits and a holographic display that shares oral histories. Anthropological displays such as a large exhibit concerning Nevada's American Indians and small exhibits about the state's Chinese and Basque immigrants share the human diversity of Nevada. As the exhibits progress to modern times, they take on a Las Vegas-specific tone that includes the city's rise to entertainment capital, Howard Hughes' substantial impact, and the ostentatious costumes of showgirls.

Across the main hall from the permanent exhibit space, Cameron Grant's "Changing Nevada"

Opposite page: A large display at the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas is dedicated to some of Nevada's most recognizable fossils, including prehistoric horses and the official state fossil, the ichthyosaur.

Cameron Grant's "Changing Nevada" HDR photography series (above) is featured at the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas through April.

ETIMIS

More State Museums



CHARLIE JOHNSTON

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM, CARSON CITY

The Nevada State Museum, Carson City occupies the 1869 U.S. Mint and is full of enough historical and cultural exhibits to entertain visitors for an entire day and then some. Coin Press No. 1 is proudly on display and mints the last Friday of each month. The Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile Research Center contains about 10,000 artifacts and is a study center for understanding historic costumes and textiles. Such exhibits as "Under One Sky: Nevada's Native American Heritage" and the "Fey Slot Machine Collection" celebrate the state's diverse cultural history. **museums.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-4810**

high dynamic range (HDR) photography series will occupy the changing exhibit space through April. Grant's photos make the already vibrant treatments afforded by HDR technology even more striking through his use of aluminum printing. Grant permanently bakes his overlaid images, layer by painstaking layer, onto heated aluminum, resulting in beautiful glossy images that come alive.

In addition to the impressive exhibit space, the new Nevada State Museum also houses a massive collection storage vault, workshop space, research library, education lab, meeting rooms, event space, and a full catering kitchen. "People only think about exhibits," says director David Millman. "But this is so much more."

LOST CITY MUSEUM

A hidden gem among Southern Nevada's cultural attractions, Lost City Museum in sleepy rural Overton is perhaps the state's most historically significant museum. Built by the National Parks Service and Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935 to house artifacts from the Anasazi site of Pueblo Grande de Nevada before the rising waters of Lake Mead covered it, the Lost City Museum also happens to sit on an Anasazi site itself. An extension of the museum was intentionally built atop the ruins in the 1980s to protect them. According to the museum's curator and archeologist Dena Sedar, the Lost City—as Pueblo Grande de Nevada came to be called—was the subject of great attention in the early 20th century, a likely explanation for the extreme care taken to preserve its relics.

Today, the ruins are the center of the museum's main exhibit and serve as an example of what an actual archeological dig site looks like. The history of the excavation at Pueblo Grande de Nevada is explored in depth alongside thousands of artifacts from the site that range from pottery to shells used for trading with neighboring tribes. Other exhibits share the history of the museum itself, which was turned over to the State of Nevada in 1953, and an overview of Nevada's geologic past. Young visitors to the museum are huge fans of its recreated outdoor pueblo dwellings that accurately depict the way ancient Anasazi lived and the functions their various adobe abodes served.



Ancient Anasazi ruins form the centerpiece of the Lost City Museum's main exhibit alongside a reproduction of day-to-day life for the Anasazi people.

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM, BOULDER CITY

Las Vegas, Nevada, and the entire West owe their existence to railroads. Without the easy supply and transport of goods and people provided by trains, Nevada's mines would never have moved their mineral wealth for processing, and the staggering amount of construction materials and workers needed to build Hoover Dam could have never reached Black Canyon. The Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City is a celebration of that legacy and offers popular weekend rides aboard an antique train on almost four miles of the historic Boulder Branch Line to Railroad Pass.

Passengers travel in comfort on air-conditioned refurbished Pullman coaches dating to 1911 during the 40-minute rides, Saturdays and Sundays at 10



CHARLIE JOHNSTON

and 11:30 a.m. and 1 and 2:30 p.m. The special Santa Train during the first three weekends in December draws a jolly crowd, and a staged train robbery by the Reenactment Guild of America scheduled for March is sure to excite. The train can be rented for special events, and The Depot Store offers souvenirs to commemorate visits. The Engineer for an Hour Program offers serious train buffs the chance to pilot one of four diesel-electric locomotives.

A new 7.5-inch gauge model train track is under construction near the museum's lower parking lot. The track will feature live steam scale model trains and allow collectors and enthusiasts to run their own model trains. The first phase was scheduled to be complete in late 2011.

ATOMIC TESTING MUSEUM

Perhaps the most dubious chapter in the Silver State's history is that pertaining to the testing of nuclear weapons at the Nevada Test Site about 70 miles north of Las Vegas. Between 1951 and 1962, the 1,375-square-mile patch of Nevada desert was



CHARLIE JOHNSTON

40-minute train rides at the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City follow the historic Boulder Branch Line and bring out the kid in everyone.

the stage for 121 above-ground atomic tests and 928 underground detonations from 1963 until a 1992 moratorium put an end to such tests. The Atomic Testing Museum explores the chilling history of nuclear testing in the United States, from World War II and the Manhattan Project to the current and future challenges of testing and disposal of the country's immense nuclear stockpile.

The museum's galleries are ordered chronologically. A brief exhibit about World War II, the Manhattan Project, the 1945 bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and tests in the Pacific serves as a



NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM, CARSON CITY

The Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City salutes the locomotives and cars of the famous Virginia & Truckee Railroad and other railroads of the Silver State. More than 30 pieces that operated on the V&T are available to peruse. Museum activities consist of operation of historic equipment, including train rides, handcar rides, lectures, an annual railroad history symposium, changing exhibits, and special events. The McKeen Motor Car No. 22, which logged more than 500,000 miles on the V&T, was recently restored and is on display. museums.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-6953

More State Museums



MATTHEW B. BROWN

EAST ELY RAILROAD DEPOT MUSEUM

Visitors can explore historic locomotives and delve into the rich history of the railroad at this expansive indoor and outdoor museum. But the uniquely interactive museum doesn't stop at informative displays. Train buffs and the general public are given the chance to ride these historic locomotives along the lines they used to ply. A variety of rides are available, from regular excursion trains to themed rides such as wine trains, barbecue trains, and the popular Polar Express. museums.nevadaculture.org, 775-289-1663

reminder that the museum is very much focused on the technological significance of atomic bombs and the testing thereof in Nevada, not their impact on WWII. The Atomic Age Gallery details the earliest days of atomic testing and even includes a delightfully outdated Disney film/cartoon that explains a nuclear reaction.

One of the museum's most talked-about exhibits, Ground Zero Theater, is a multi-sensory experience that simulates an above-ground test and includes commentary from people who witnessed such tests firsthand. The Versatile Laboratories Gallery and Grain Silo Theater illustrate the various uses the Test Site served after atomic testing was halted. The Harry Reid Exhibit Hall houses temporary exhibits hosted by the museum, including *Area 51: Myth or Reality*, scheduled to debut in the spring.

BOULDER CITY/HOOVER DAM MUSEUM

Boulder City was established in 1931 to house Hoover Dam workers and their families. It only makes sense that the story of the dam so big it required a city to support its construction would be told by the Boulder City Museum and Historical Association. The museum covers all aspects of the Boulder Canyon Project with three-dimensional interactive exhibits that include artifacts and photographs from the dam, plus oral histories from the men and women who helped build one of the greatest engineering feats in human history. The sounds of the dam's construction echo through the museum much as they did 80 years ago in the depths of Black Canyon.



MATTHEW B. BROWN

One exhibit in the Atomic Age Gallery at the Atomic Testing Museum is dedicated to the flood of "atomic" products made since the mid-1900s. Manufacturers of everything from candy, cereal, and beverages to comic books, toys, and apparel used the unique draw to help market and sell their wares.



MATTHEW B. BROWN

The Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum affords unsurpassed information about the construction and significance of Hoover Dam, but no museum experience is complete without a visit to the behemoth barrier itself. The view from the recently constructed Mike O'Callaghan–Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge is not only breathtaking, it's also free.

CLARK COUNTY MUSEUM

Clark County Museum in Henderson is a 30-acre site operated by Clark County Parks and Recreation that includes a modern exhibit hall with a timeline that covers Southern Nevada from pre-history to the present. A collection of restored historic buildings that depict daily life from different decades in Las Vegas, Boulder City, Henderson, and Goldfield occupies much of the museum campus.

EROTIC HERITAGE MUSEUM

It is often said that we should not judge a book by its cover, and potential censors would be wise to hear the Erotic Heritage Museum out before reaching for their Puritan black bars. Dedicated to the preservation of erotic fine art, artifacts, and film, the museum maintains an air of sophistication

with 17,000 square feet of permanent and featured exhibits that celebrate sexuality and eroticism as natural aspects of the human experience.

The museum is owned and operated by Exodus Trust, a nonprofit that aims to perform educational, scientific, and literary functions relating to sexual, emotional, mental, and physical health.

HISPANIC MUSEUM OF NEVADA

The Hispanic Museum of Nevada at 330 South Valley View Boulevard was founded in 1991 and is dedicated to promoting awareness, education, and resources concerning Nevada's diverse Hispanic cultures and traditions and enhancing intercultural understanding. Exhibits at the museum focus on Latino-produced art, including sculptures, paintings, photographs, pottery, and textiles. Additional



NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, RENO

The Nevada Historical Society museum at the University of Nevada, Reno contains two permanent galleries: Nevada and Reno History. Located in the hallway and conference-room gallery spaces, respectively, these are where guests will find nostalgic rotating exhibits. The Society research library contains a unique and rich collection of manuscripts, photographs, maps, rare books, and print materials on Nevada, the Great Basin, and the West. Dating to 1904, the Nevada Historical Society is the oldest cultural institution in Nevada. **museums.nevadaculture.org, 775-688-1190**



CHARLIE JOHNSTON

George Crockett's red 1956 Ford Thunderbird (above), aviation memorabilia, and a detailed history of McCarran International Airport and its precursors make flight delays and layovers more tolerable at the airport's Howard W. Cannon Aviation Museum.

Many exhibits at the Las Vegas Natural History Museum—such as one featuring Nevada's state animal, the desert bighorn sheep (right and opposite page)—feature taxidermy specimens.

exhibits are available at *El Rinconcito del Arte*, or the Little Art Corner, at 250 North Eastern Avenue in Las Vegas. The museum also hosts the annual Las Vegas Latino Short Film Festival in October.

HOWARD W. CANNON AVIATION MUSEUM

Located within Las Vegas' McCarran International Airport, the Howard W. Cannon Aviation Museum focuses on the history of commercial and general aviation in Southern Nevada—from the first flight in 1920 through the introduction of jets.

The main exhibit is above the baggage claim area, with additional exhibits in ticketing, at the A, B, C, and D gates, Terminal Two, the North Las Vegas Air Terminal, and the Henderson Executive Airport. Among the many interesting aviation artifacts, the main exhibit's red 1956 Ford Thunderbird convertible is a favorite. The car was once owned by Alamo Airport (McCarran's original name) founder George Crockett and was a fixture around the airport in the 1950s and '60s.

LAS VEGAS INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING MUSEUM

Scouting enthusiast Robert Lynn Horne opened the Las Vegas International Scouting Museum in a space next door to his medical practice in 1999. Since, he has amassed an enormous collection of scouting badges, uniforms, postcards, trophies, and other memorabilia from around the world. Tours of the museum are available by appointment only.

LAS VEGAS NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

It's easy to spot a child's favorite toy—perhaps it is missing an eye, is more faded than the day it was pulled out of the box, and has a stain or two on its fur. One certainty can be drawn from the minor blemishes: It has been well loved for a long time. The Las Vegas Natural History Museum shows the wear of a facility cherished by countless thousands



of children since opening its doors in 1991. But, like the favorite toy, the slight imperfections only add to its charm.

The museum's grand hall is lined with cultural and historic artifacts and leads to the International Wildlife, Marine Life, Wild Nevada, and Prehistoric Life Galleries as well as the Young Scientist Center and the museum's newest attraction, the Treasures of Egypt exhibit. The exhibit shows visitors how archeologists in the early 20th century unearthed the tombs of Pharaohs and what daily life in ancient Egypt was like. The exhibit is filled with recreations of some of the most famous treasures extracted from King Tutankhamun's tomb, including the Golden Shrine and Throne, outer sarcophagus, and chariots. The African Savanna and Rainforest Galleries and the Early Man exhibit, which chronicles mankind's rise from primate to modern human, occupy the museum's lower level.

There has been discussion of the Natural History Museum trading its cramped quarters—the 33-foot Tyrannosaurus Rex in the Prehistoric Life Gallery risks bumping his head on the ceiling—to occupy the former Lied Discovery Children's Museum when that facility moves to its new home later this year.



MATTHEW B. BROWN



CHARLIE JOHNSTON

Growing Up With The Berenstain Bears (above) occupies the Donor Gallery at the Lied Discovery Children's Museum. The exhibit is said to be like stepping into the stories of the popular children's books.

LIED DISCOVERY CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

The Lied Discovery Children's Museum in downtown Las Vegas echoes with the sounds of learning made fun, literally. A Saturday visit reveals children from toddlers to pre-teens exuberantly bounding from exhibit to exhibit, thirstily devouring each topic amid excited laughter and seemingly endless cries of "Mom! Look!"

Nearly 100 exhibits geared toward specific age groups teach children about healthy eating habits, cultural diversity, environmental consciousness, scientific pursuits, and more. Some of the most popular exhibits include Growing Up with the Berenstain Bears, based on the popular children's book series; It's Your Choice, which compares and contrasts healthy versus unhealthy lifestyles; The Green Village, where children experience everyday living lessons with an environmentally conscious theme; and second-floor exhibits that feature science, communication, and technology.

In late 2010, construction began on a facility to replace the 21-year-old museum. Next door to the soon-to-open Smith Center for the Performing Arts, the Donald W. Reynolds Discovery Center at Symphony Park is slated to become the new home of the children's museum in November. The facility will nearly double available exhibit space, providing for more of the hands-on learning more than 2 million Lied visitors have come to know and love. More information about the new Discovery Children's Museum can be found at nowtowow.org.



MATTHEW B. BROWN

THE MOB MUSEUM

Occupying Las Vegas' former federal courthouse and post office, which played host to the 1950 Kefauver hearings on organized crime, The Mob Museum is set to open Tuesday, February 14 (the 83rd anniversary of Chicago's infamous 1929 St. Valentine's Day Massacre) as the nation's premier museum dedicated to organized crime and law enforcement. The beautifully restored 1933 neo-classical building houses exhibits about organized crime around the world, mob dealings specific to Las Vegas, and how law enforcement battled (and still battles) organized crime and eventually pushed it from Las Vegas' casinos. Read "Mob Ties" starting on page 66 for more information on The Mob Museum and organized crime's substantial influence on Las Vegas.



CHARLIE JOHNSTON

NEON MUSEUM

Since neon first graced the Glitter Gulch skyline in the 1930s, many signs have outlived their usefulness and been taken down to make way for bigger, better, and brighter beacons. Most of those signs were not owned by the businesses they served but were instead leased from sign builders such as Young Electric Sign Company and were relegated to storage yards or repurposed following their tours of duty. The Neon Museum holds more than 150 of those discarded signs, the bulk of which are housed in the fenced Neon Boneyard.

Tours of the Boneyard are currently available by appointment only, but the Neon Museum is well on its way to making itself more accessible. The new visitor's center, which formerly served as the iconic shell-shaped lobby of the La Concha Motel, is on track for a mid-2012 opening and will include a reception area, interactive exhibits, event space, and museum offices. The museum's extension, the Fremont Street Gallery on Fremont

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas

309 S. Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107
museums.nevadaculture.org
702-486-5205
Hours: Fri.–Mon., 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Lost City Museum

PO Box 807, Overton, NV 89040
museums.nevadaculture.org
702-397-2193
Hours: Thurs.–Sun., 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City

601 Yucca St., Boulder City, NV 89005
museums.nevadaculture.org
702-486-5006
Hours: Excursion Train Rides Sat.–Sun., 10 and 11:30 a.m., 1 and 2:30 p.m. except January

Atomic Testing Museum

755 E. Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89119
atomictestingmuseum.org
702-794-5151
Hours: Mon.–Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Sun. noon–5 p.m.

Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum

1305 Arizona St., Boulder City, NV 89005
bcmha.org
702-294-1988
Hours: Mon.–Sat., 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Clark County Museum

1803 S. Boulder Hwy., Henderson, NV 89002
clarkcountynv.gov
702-455-7955
Hours: Daily, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Erotic Heritage Museum

3275 Industrial Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89109
eroticheritagemuseumlasvegas.com
702-369-6442
Hours: Sun., Tues.–Thurs., 11 a.m.–4 p.m.,
Fri.–Sat., noon–10 p.m.

Hispanic Museum of Nevada

330 S. Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107
hispanicmuseumnv.com
702-649-1746
Hours: Mon.–Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Howard W. Cannon Aviation Museum

5757 Wayne Newton Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89119
clarkcountynv.gov
702-455-7968
Hours: Daily, 24-7



Opposite page: the beautifully restored former federal courtroom at The Mob Museum. The Neon Museum's Neon Boneyard (above) is home to more than 150 historic signs.

Street between Las Vegas Boulevard and Third Street downtown, features nine refurbished signs that, unlike the non-lit signs in the Boneyard, can be visited during a self-guided walking tour 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

NEVADA VINTAGE RACE CAR AND AVIATION MUSEUM

Ed Rachanski, a motorsports entrepreneur and former racecar driver and Korean War flight engineer, owns Henderson's Nevada Vintage Racecar and Aviation Museum. The museum houses several of his vintage racecars, an array of motorsports memorabilia, model aircrafts, Korean War-era artifacts, and the nose section of a C-119 "Flying Boxcar." Rachanski's FAA-certified aircraft engine shop occupies the same building as the museum.

PAHRUMP VALLEY MUSEUM

Although the town of Pahrump has only come to prominence in the last few decades, the region holds a rich history dating to Spanish explorers and Shoshone inhabitants. This history takes center stage at the Pahrump Valley Museum. The museum includes several historic buildings from Pahrump's early days, antique farming and mining machinery, a southwest garden display with a large variety of cacti, and a large exhibit hall. The hall features artifacts from Pahrump's past along with a display dedicated to Yucca Mountain and atomic testing in Nevada, plus one of the finest collections of Abraham Lincoln—Lincoln was president when Nevada was granted statehood in 1864—memorabilia in the country.

SEARCHLIGHT COMMUNITY MUSEUM

Located inside the Searchlight Community Center, the Searchlight Community Museum focuses on the fascinating history of the 1898 town, including its early prominence in mining and collateral fame of being the birthplace of U.S. Senator Harry Reid.

VIRGIN VALLEY HERITAGE MUSEUM

Since the days of the Old Spanish and Mormon Trails, the Virgin Valley has hosted persistent pioneers—it took three attempts to sufficiently subdue the Virgin River to the point that a permanent settlement could be built. The stories of those settlers and more are shared at Mesquite's Virgin Valley Heritage Museum. Historical books, artifacts, and photos make up the exhibits and a recreated 1920s parlor room offers a glimpse of a simpler time. ■

Las Vegas International Scouting Museum
2915 W. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89102
worldscoutingmuseum.org
702-878-7268
Hours: Mon.–Fri., 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Las Vegas Natural History Museum
900 Las Vegas Blvd. N., Las Vegas, NV 89101
lvnhm.org
702-384-3466
Hours: Daily, 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

Lied Discovery Children's Museum
833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., Las Vegas, NV 89101
ldcm.org
702-382-5437
Hours: Tues.–Fri., 9 a.m.–4 p.m.,
Sat., 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun., noon–5 p.m.

The Mob Museum
300 W. Stewart Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89101
themobmuseum.org
702-229-2734
Opens: Tuesday, February 14
Hours: Sun.–Thurs., 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.,
Fri.–Sat., 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

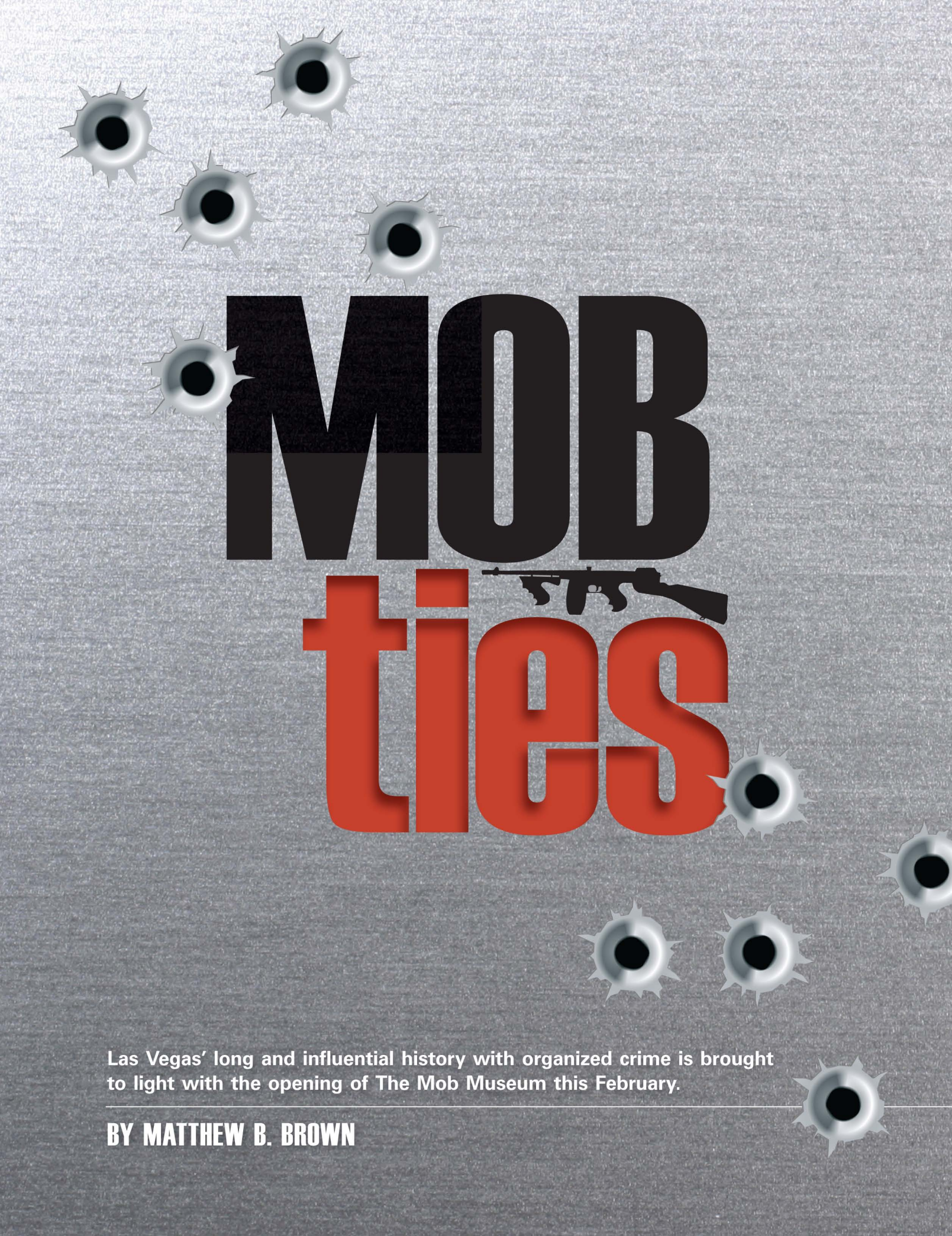
Neon Museum
PO Box 147, Las Vegas, NV 89125
neonmuseum.org
702-387-6366
Hours: Boneyard tours by appt. only,
Fremont Street Gallery open daily, 24-7

Nevada Vintage Racecar and Aviation Museum
250 SunPac Ave., Henderson, NV 89015
fabulousracers.com
702-565-9038

Pahrump Valley Museum
401 E. Basin Ave., Pahrump, NV 89060
pahrumppnv.org
775-751-1970
Hours: Tues.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Searchlight Community Museum
200 Michael Wendell Way, Searchlight, NV 89046
clarkcountynv.gov
702-297-1682
Hours: Mon.–Fri., 9 a.m.–5 p.m.,
Sat., 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Virgin Valley Heritage Museum
35 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite, NV 89027
mesquitenv.gov
702-346-5705
Hours: Tues.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4 p.m.



MOB ties

Las Vegas' long and influential history with organized crime is brought to light with the opening of The Mob Museum this February.

BY MATTHEW B. BROWN

Jim Germain has lived all of his 63 years in Las Vegas, watching the town grow from a small desert retreat to the worldwide attraction it is today. Two years before Germain was born, in 1946, Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel arrogantly rushed the opening of his elaborate Flamingo hotel and casino, even though the building was incomplete and in a world of financial trouble. On December 26, locals and a few celebrities flocked to the new casino, only to be greeted by construction noise and drop cloths and the desert's first air-conditioning system functioning only sporadically. The luxury rooms that were to lure high rollers were uninhabitable.

Siegel's reckless operation of the Flamingo ultimately led to his demise, as the mob lost patience and "retired" him on June 20, 1947 in his girlfriend's Beverly Hills home. Siegel's time in Las Vegas was brief—he came to the desert in spring 1946 to supervise the Flamingo project—but he is one of the more famous faces and names attached to the city's mob history, which was born in Siegel's day, prospered from about 1950 to the early 1980s, and died when the FBI used wiretaps and other new law-enforcement technologies to essentially eradicate the city's mob scene.

Germain, the board secretary of The Mob Museum, the National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement, which will open its doors in Las Vegas on February 14, has not forgotten the days when characters like Siegel ran the city. His father, Ray, was a reporter for the *Las Vegas Sun* and once wrote an article about Siegel that used the term "Bugsy." The day the article hit newsstands, two of Siegel's associates visited Ray's office and pointedly told him that Mr. Siegel did not like the article because he despised that word.

Siegel earned the nickname—said to be based on the slang "bugs," meaning "crazy," and used to describe his erratic behavior—from media during a 1939 murder trial in which he was eventually acquitted, but his reputation was forever tarnished. Germain says, "My dad made a vow at that time and told me later on, 'I never broke it, and I never would have because I knew what the consequences were. I never wrote another word about Siegel, much less used that word.'"

Whether it was Frank "Lefty" Rosenthal—the basis for Sam "Ace" Rosenthal's character played by Robert De Niro in the 1995 film "Casino"—or Anthony "The Ant" Spilotro—portrayed by Joe Pesci as Nicky Santoro in the same movie—Las Vegas' mob history was ruthless and brutal. But for those who didn't cross the mob, it was also a glorious time to be a Las Vegan.

"If you lived in town those days, you weren't worried about gangs, you weren't worried about the kind of violent crimes that you see now, and a man's word was his bond," says former Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman, who was once a defense lawyer for Spilotro and Rosenthal and a number of other figureheads of organized crime. "I like the interrelationships of the old days more than today. People were a little more laid back and not as aggressive."

Starting in February, not only will guests of The Mob Museum inside the former federal courthouse and post office on Stewart Avenue relive the city's mob past, they will get a nationwide and worldwide perspective on organized crime and the men and women in law enforcement that fought it and continue to fight it today.

PERSONALITIES

Following are four Q&As associated with the February 14 opening of The Mob Museum in Las Vegas.

OSCAR GOODMAN

A key visionary for the project and current board member is former Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman, a previous go-to defense attorney who made a name for himself representing such reputed mobsters as Meyer Lansky, Frank Rosenthal, and Anthony Spilotro, among others. Goodman's new steakhouse at Plaza Las Vegas, Oscar's, should be open when this magazine hits newsstands. When we talked to him in mid-November, he was also filming a new Las Vegas-based television show, "Vegas Night Court with Oscar Goodman."

Q: How did The Mob Museum originate in Las Vegas?

A: The first thing I did when I was elected mayor [in 1999] was look out my window of the 10th floor of city hall, and I saw

the old U.S. post office and courthouse, where I tried my first federal case [in 1967]. I said, "What's happening to the old post office?" They told me the General Services Administration (GSA) of the federal government had declared it a surplus. We called them, and they said they would sell us the building for \$1 on two conditions: one, that we refurbish it to its original condition and two, that we use it for museum purposes. So I began to think about what kind of museum. I knew that's what we had to use the building for, to get that feeling of liveliness in downtown because it was a very lethargic downtown at the time. It dawned on me: What differentiates us from any other city in the world as far as where we came from? And I said, "The mob."

Q: What's your excitement level for the opening of the museum, and what's it going to mean for the City of Las Vegas?

A: It looks like the opening will take place on Valentine's Day, which is very interesting in that we have acquired the St. Valentine's Day Massacre wall, and that will be one of the major exhibits. The thing that I was criticized for was a glorification of mobsters, and of course that's nonsensical because we have retained the services of the former head of the FBI here, who has



CHARLIE JOHNSTON



NYC MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES

At left is a mugshot of Jewish mobster Meyer Lansky, a key figure in the growth and development of organized crime in Las Vegas. It was Lansky who convinced the Mafia to place Benjamin “Bugsy” Siegel in charge of Las Vegas and became a major investor in the Flamingo Hotel. Lansky paved the way for notorious mobsters such as Anthony Spilotro, shown in the Las Vegas mugshot below. Former Las Vegas mayor and attorney Oscar Goodman (opposite page) made a name for himself defending Lansky, Spilotro, and others on the second floor of the former Las Vegas federal building, now home to The Mob Museum.

the blessing of the FBI back in Washington D.C. Memorabilia is being provided to the museum from there, and in fact, it’s a historic place because this is where the Kefauver hearings took place in the 1950s. Not too many people are around to remember those days, but Senator Estes Kefauver from Tennessee was trying to run for president based on holding these hearings in major cities where he believed there was a mob influence, and he did spend time here in that very building conducting such a hearing. It was of world interest at the time, so it does have all the necessary ingredients to be successful.

Q: Put yourself back in the federal courthouse where you defended mobsters such as Lansky, Rosenthal, and Spilotro. What was it like?

A: Those days were exciting days for Las Vegas because every day something was happening during the late ’70s to early ’80s—that’s when the FBI came here and began to use wiretaps as an investigative technique. The newspapers and media were all over these reputed crime figures who were in town. There were allegations of hidden ownership of the hotels; the wiretaps supported those allegations. And every day there was either a search and seizure taking place, where you had to go down and argue things at the courthouse, or an arrest that took place, grand jury appearances—it was very, very busy. It was a time like no other city ever saw. I was right in the thick of things because I represented most of the people who were the subjects of the interest of law enforcement, and it kept me very busy, kept me on my toes. It was a great life because every morning I woke up I knew it was going to be a new and different challenging, exciting experience, and the folks who I was representing were all characters. That kind of intensity ended in the late ’80s.

Q: Tell us about some of those “characters” you mentioned.

A: There was a time when the senior executives at Caesars Palace had been indicted for illegal bookmaking. The evidence obtained against them was acquired by virtue of wiretaps, and they were heard talking about ladies, partying, drinking, and all the things that make a man feel good. When they were indicted, the local judges wanted no part of it because they were leaders in our community, so they sent a judge in from Los Angeles. I’ll never forget it; the clients did not want their wives to hear the tape recordings because they were naughty. The judge came out, and of course all three of the defendants are there, and their wives are with them in the courtroom. And for the first time the judge brings out the indictment, and he looks at it and says, “Oh, this is the booze and broads case.” At that point in time, pleas were entered immediately [laughs]. At Oscar’s, I have “beef, booze, and broads” in the title, and it was always with that story in the back of my mind. I’ve always wanted to open up a speak-easy steakhouse-type place.



STOLDAL COLLECTION



ELLEN KNOWLTON

Ellen Knowlton, who served as FBI Special Agent in Charge, Las Vegas Division, from 2002-06, heads the museum's board of directors. She retired in 2006 as a 24-year FBI veteran. Knowlton is president of 300 Stewart Avenue Corporation, the nonprofit overseeing develop-

ment and operations of The Mob Museum.

Q: What do you think this museum will do to enhance our knowledge of the mob—not only in Las Vegas, but nationally?

A: I think it's going to be a fantastic learning opportunity for anybody who wants to understand not only what happened here in Las Vegas, but to understand the structure of organized crime—where it started, how it got here, and then what happened here. And what law enforcement did to combat it, how long it took—it was a huge effort to eradicate it, frankly, and it involved not just the FBI, but certainly metro and other federal and local law enforcement, plus the Department of Justice. We're working very hard to have a correct balance to make sure people understand that this isn't a glamorous road to go down. It's gritty, it's dangerous, it can be disheartening, and it's very negative, so we're striving to provide really educational information along with entertainment.

Q: Give us a rundown of what the museum experience will entail.

A: There are some very unique weapons, some from law enforcement, some from organized crime, that will be on display that have all been authenticated. There is the recreated, original St. Valentine's Day Massacre wall, which, after the massacre, was dismantled and preserved. From the locals' standpoint, the building was also a post office. There are a number of artifacts from the post office, including mailboxes. The building has been completely restored. The courtroom is fabulous; that's probably the centerpiece of the museum. It's very ornate. There are audio-visuais throughout the museum that are interesting and entertaining. There are also several in-

teractives, including one that involves firearms, where people can be in a situation in which they're the law enforcement officers. They have a weapon, and they're interacting with a bad guy on a video screen.

Q: What are the main eras highlighted at the museum?

A: The museum covers the period of time from prohibition to the present. Organized crime was involved in bootlegging, so that's included. Organized crime is still in Las Vegas, it's just not in the mainstream. It's everywhere really. We want our museum to focus on the late '40s, '50s, '60s, up through the mid-'70s because that's when the activity was most prevalent. But we also have current events. We talk about some non-traditional organized crime. There is a provision where we can update, so as new things come to light we can update the exhibits and features.

Q: Why does a tourist or Nevada resident have to see The Mob Museum once it opens?

A: It's unique. There's nothing like it in the world. While it focuses on the history of organized crime in Las Vegas, because you have to set the stage and explain how people got here, it actually goes into organized crime around the nation. So if you're from Kansas City, you can come here and learn about organized crime in Kansas City and the history of that organized crime element. So wherever you're from, you can focus on your city.

Q: How do you measure the mob's influence on the City of Las Vegas?

A: I don't think it was a major influence, and I don't think it was necessarily a positive influence. I've heard people say things like, "The town was never better than when the mob influence was strong and prevalent," and I don't necessarily agree with that. I think the major influence on Las Vegas was the legalization of gambling—that was the major impact. The legalization of gambling opened our city up to all kinds of people and enterprise. Las Vegas would still be glittery, would still be what it is today—a major worldwide attraction. We didn't need organized crime to do that for us.

Q: The public has seen such films as "Casino," which shape our idea of what it was like in mob-era Las Vegas, and in general around the country. How accurate of a portrayal is that film and movies like it?

A: "Casino" is probably one of the more accurate ones. I also

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Photo by JT Humphrey

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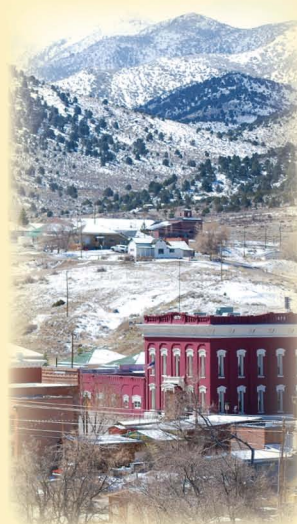


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The Mob Museum

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Step inside the very courtroom where the proceedings of the Kefauver Committee hearings occurred. The hearings, led by U.S. Senator Estes Kefauver, were held in 14 cities in 1950-51 and sought to expose and control organized crime.

SIN CITY

An in-depth look at Las Vegas as the ultimate "open city" that attracted mobsters following the Kefauver hearings; a tough little town that became a haven and playground for American organized crime in the 1950s.

THE GAME CONTINUES

Las Vegas from the 1950s to the present with focus on the Black Book, scamming and skimming, Gaming Control Board activities, and Howard Hughes.

WEB OF DECEIT

A fascinating look at mob violence, corruption, conspiracy, and murder.

MYTH OF THE MOB

How the mob has been portrayed in movies, books, and pop culture and discussion on its accuracy.

THE LEGACY OF THE MOB

The mob's persistence today despite high-profile victories by law enforcement.

BRINGING DOWN THE MOB

How the battle against the mob was won with focus on important historic and law-enforcement victories, including hearings, raids, arrests, and indictments for such illicit activities as money laundering, human trafficking, drug cartels, kidnappings, wiretappings, murder, and more.



- 1st Floor
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NOTABLE NAMES IN MOB HISTORY

Al Capone, Louis "Lepke" Buchalter, Dutch Schultz, Dion O'Bannion, Albert Anastasia, Moe Dalitz, Lucky Luciano, Joseph Bonanno, and others.

THE MOB THROUGH HISTORY

A timeline that includes the birth of the mob; its geographic "families" around the globe; the impact of prohibition, drugs, and prostitution on the Mob's bottom line; and how organized crime is evolving.

MOB BUSTERS

J. Edgar Hoover, Estes Kefauver, Eliot Ness, Harry Anslinger, and others.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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MEMORIES OF THE MOB

A look at "old" mobsters when they retire, go into exile, enter the witness protection program, or die.

ORGANIZED CRIME AROUND THE WORLD

A look at current local and global mob activities and discussion on its future.



Board secretary of The Mob Museum Jim Germain (left) stands next to executive director Jonathan Ullman in the lobby of Las Vegas' former U.S. Post Office on Stewart Avenue. The historic building, where Germain's grandfather, Frank Garside, served as postmaster from 1933-53, has been transformed into The Mob Museum, which opens February 14.

think there is a lot of research done and efforts made to be realistic in "The Godfather." I also think that when people see those movies, the sensational and the glamorous lifestyles are exaggerated. I don't think that's the accurate part. I think the brutality is.

Q: The building dates to 1933 and was Las Vegas' first federal building. Why is it important to preserve that history?

A: You have a lot of history in Northern Nevada that's been preserved, and there is not a lot of history that's been preserved in Las Vegas. They tend to blow things up, rather than preserve them, so this is a historical site.

JIM GERMAIN

Jim Germain is as Nevadan as they come. He is a native Las Vegas and a member of a pioneer Las Vegas family. At one time, Germain's grandfather, Frank Garside, owned 14 newspapers in the Silver State. Garside moved from Tonopah to Las Vegas in 1926 and eventually became publisher of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* and was the city postmaster from 1933-53.

Garside held such prominent status in Las Vegas that he dined with Bugsy (oops, Benjamin) Siegel on a few occasions. Garside

did not think highly of Siegel, "who liked my grandmother because she came to Nevada by herself as a young lady on a stage-coach, and he thought that was a pretty interesting background," Germain says.

Germain, a tourism consultant, previously worked in sales for a number of Las Vegas resort-hotels and ran a nationwide special-events and meetings company for more than 20 years. He holds a degree from each of the state's major universities.

Q: You have a personal connection to the building through your grandfather, the former postmaster. How special is it to you that this building has been given new life?

A: That's how I got involved with the building. It was our post office. My grandfather's office was there—I don't remember visiting my grandfather because I was only five years old when he retired from that position. But I went into his office afterward many times. That's where my dad's business was, downtown. He'd send me to the post office to open his box and get his mail. That's where we went to mail packages. When the city got [the building] in 2002 from the federal government to use as a cultural site, I became very interested in it and talked to the mayor's office and said, "If we do something with the old post office, I'd like to be involved because of my family history, and I'd like to help."

Q: What do you think this museum will do to enhance our knowledge of the mob—not only in Las Vegas, but nationally?

A: We've really worked hard to give an authentic portrayal of organized crime. The museum's going to show that it wasn't like the movies. It was probably horrific to be a member of organized crime, and once you get into it, you don't get out. It's going to show that we have great people working for us in law enforcement against a very nefarious group of individuals. It's not going to be a stodgy, dusty museum. It's going to have interactive exhibits, and it's going to be a vibrant representation of the truth. Those of us who have been involved with it from the very beginning are so excited.

Q: Do you see the museum attracting a new wave of tourists to Las Vegas?

A: I think it's going to bring people to Las Vegas. I think it's going to be a strong enough attraction that it will be a reason for people to revisit Las Vegas, and not for the same reasons that they've been here before. It's going to do a great job of revitalizing that section of downtown. It's going to bring a significant number of additional tourists to Las Vegas because it's an attraction that will exist nowhere else.

Q: What will the demographic be?

A: It's going to be older. We're expecting that it will be of interest to middle school students and older. There are some pretty graphic representations in the museum, and it's not going to be a place for very young children.

Q: How has your sales experience in Las Vegas helped you market the museum?

A: I was also in special events, and we really had a lack of exciting destinations to take people for private parties. I had offices in Washington D.C., San Francisco, and New Orleans—a lot of places that had fantastic venues outside the hotels to host parties and events. Las Vegas is unmatched with their hotel facilities, but it lacks historical and cultural venues—we just don't have old buildings. We don't have old museums, and this is going to fill a niche for the special-event area in Las Vegas, and we're really excited about that.

Q: How do you measure the mob's influence on the City of Las Vegas?

A: The mob funded some rather special hotels. We needed that growth. Las Vegas was a pretty isolated place. Without the mob's influential money, then we might not be where we are today. It wasn't until the city was pretty well established as a world-class

tourism destination that the corporations came—Hilton and some of the others that bought the mob businesses and took them over. The development continued, of course, but without that push in the very beginning, I don't think Las Vegas would be where it is today.

Q: What was Las Vegas like when the mob ruled?

A: We as residents weren't involved in the organized-crime aspect. My parents probably knew more about what was going on than I did. The big thing about being a resident of Las Vegas at that time, unless you were involved in organized crime, you might have been aware that it was here, but there was no threat to the residents. In other words, we weren't worried that one day we were going to be driving along on the street and a black car would pull in front of us, and we would be machine-gunned. It didn't happen that way. It happened, but it didn't happen to people who weren't involved. And we had no fear of that. A lot of the old-time casino people liked it the way it was when organized crime ran the casinos because they felt they were better treated than when they corporations first got here. They were treated more as individuals. The threat was that if you crossed the line, and you did something that would upset organized crime, then you had reason to worry. That's exactly what that story about my dad represents.



WORTH A CLICK

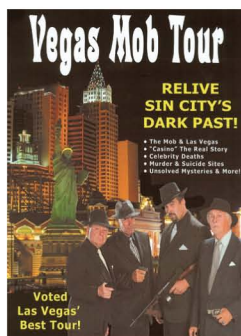
History of Las Vegas: Mob Ties

lasvegassun.com/history/mob-interactive



LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

Las Vegas' former United States Post Office and courthouse, shown here in 1947, was dedicated on November 27, 1933 as the city's first federal building.



Vegas Mob Tour

This 2.5-hour bus tour begins with tales about the mob's connection to Las Vegas. You'll visit the sites where murders, strange disappearances, and mob activity occurred. Your tour guides, dressed in pinstriped suits and fedoras, weave eerie stories about Sin City's darkest secrets. hauntedtoursusa.com, 866-218-4935



Las Vegas Mob Experience

While the Las Vegas Mob Experience inside Tropicana Las Vegas is making upgrades to the attraction, guests are invited to visit the museum, open daily. The museum features a collection of more than 1,000 mob artifacts and memorabilia including personal items belonging to many famous mobsters. trop.lv.com, 702-739-2662

WORTH A VISIT

MOB BAR

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STARDUST HOTEL COLLECTION

Actor Robert Conrad (left) is a guest on "The Frank Rosenthal Show" at the Stardust Hotel on August 22, 1977. During that decade, Rosenthal ran four Las Vegas casinos simultaneously, but he was ultimately reprimanded by authorities for doing so without a Nevada gaming license. The 1995 film "Casino" is loosely based on his life.



1981

FRANK CULLOTTA

In May 2010, Las Vegas writer Eric Gladstone interviewed surviving mob member-turned-informant Frank Cullotta, on the occasion of his

appearance for a discussion in Las Vegas. Cullotta was a key member of Anthony Spilotro's infamous Hole in the Wall Gang. Following are excerpts from the interview, which can be read in its entirety at ecgladstone.com.

Q: This isn't the first time you've made an appearance like this since coming out of the witness protection program. What do you get out of doing this?

A: The satisfaction of putting people on the right track, letting people know what it's really about. They're hearing it firsthand from a guy that's been there, instead of seeing it in movies and all that baloney, 'cause half of that stuff is so much exaggerated.

Q: What do people ask you about most?

A: Well, the strangest thing people ask me is how it felt to kill somebody. I think that's sort of a weird question. And how did you have to do these things: Are you ordered to do these things, and what happens if you don't do these things, the consequences that would take place?

Q: And from what I know about your past, you were really born into the mob.



BONES

By Day

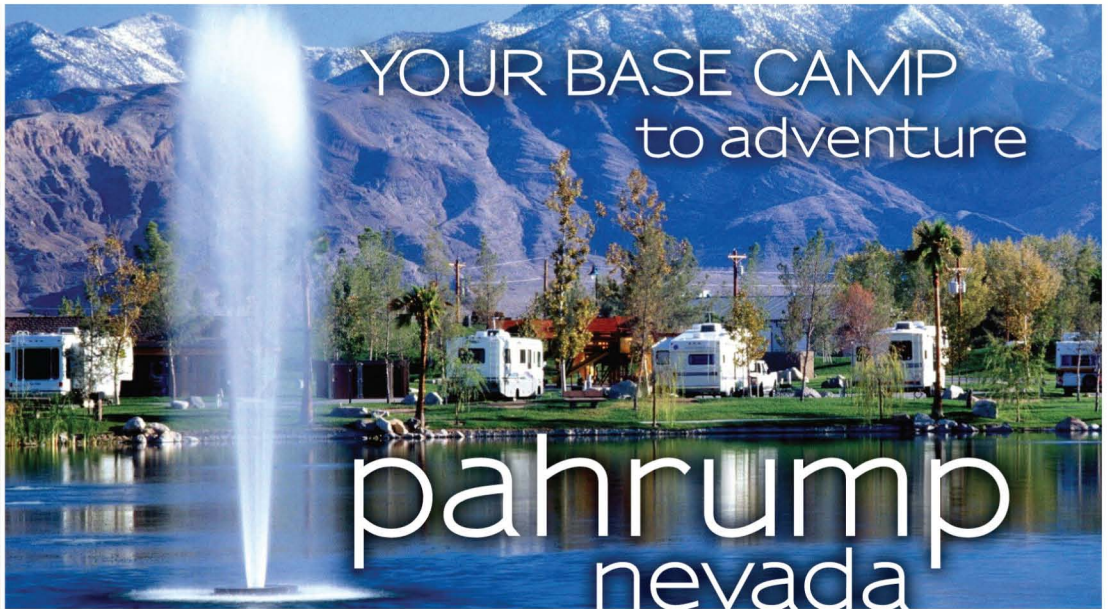
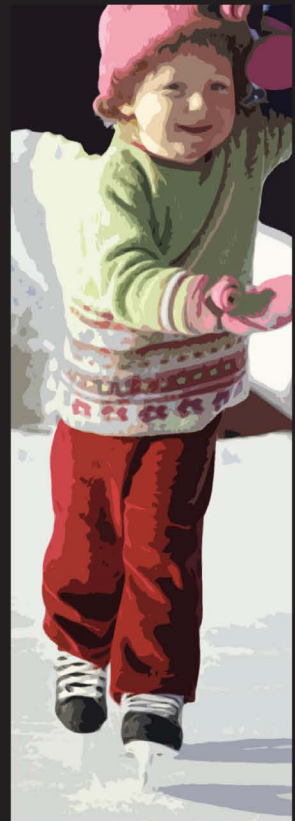
BLADES

By Night

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LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

The Stardust and Flamingo, shown in 1958 and 1947, respectively, are two of the most recognized hotel-casinos from Las Vegas' past with mob connections.

A: Well, I was, I was. I grew up in that neighborhood where everybody was a cop, a fireman, or a gangster. I come from that background, I had no other way to go. I don't think I had any other choice, 'cause I thought tough choices were the ones I had to make, and there weren't any other choices left. There was no such thing as college; nobody even talked about college. You had to be a millionaire to go to college; that's the way we looked at it. And what good would an education do you back then if you had street sense? With street sense, you could make money, and you'd see these guys that you looked up to, and they always had big wads of money on them, nice cars, and stuff like that.

Q: I was reading about the number of crimes you've been involved in, and the thing that struck me is, how do you even remember doing that many?

A: I understand what you're saying, and I get that question to me a lot of times. And I just sit back alone, and I talk into the recorder, and things start coming back to me. You know, every

robbery you go on, 90 percent of them are exciting, they're a challenge, so they stay with you. Some are more exciting than others. I did a lot of robberies.

Q: Is that part of the appeal of that life?

A: No, the glamour. People sort of look up to you. Money is the root of all evil—let's say it like it is. You got money, you got friends; you got no money, you got no friends. You got money, you got people following you all around the place. If you're a bum, nobody wants to be around you. It's power. You get off on it. Everybody does.

Q: Speaking of glamour, let's talk about Vegas in the old days—any favorite memories?

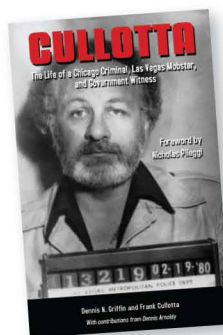
A: Every day over there was a nice day. Even the days I got followed by the cops. Small town. I was never bored there.

Q: What kind of experience do you want people to get out of the museum?

A: I'm not the curator of the museum, but they were quite interested in my story and Tony's story, because I'm a part of the history of Las Vegas. I'm actually the only guy left. So they needed that, and I gave them all I could. There's no money in it—99 percent of the stuff I do here, there's no money in it. But what's the difference? I'm making money, I got a good life.

Q: A lot of people say Vegas was better back in the old days when the Organization was running things. You've spent some time in Vegas recently. How do you feel?

A: I think it was a warmer place back then, more social. It wasn't a meatpacking place that only wanted your money. Or kids all over the place. Now it's starting to come back, they're getting rid of that Disneyland effect. It's a nice place now; I wouldn't talk anyone out of going there. I like it there. But I don't think it's ever going back to the way it used to be, and I think the way it used to be was nicer. ▀



WORTH A READ

Cullotta: The Life of a Chicago Criminal, Las Vegas Mobster, and Government Witness, by Dennis N. Griffin, huntingtonpress.com, 702-252-0655, 312 pages

Elko, Nevada

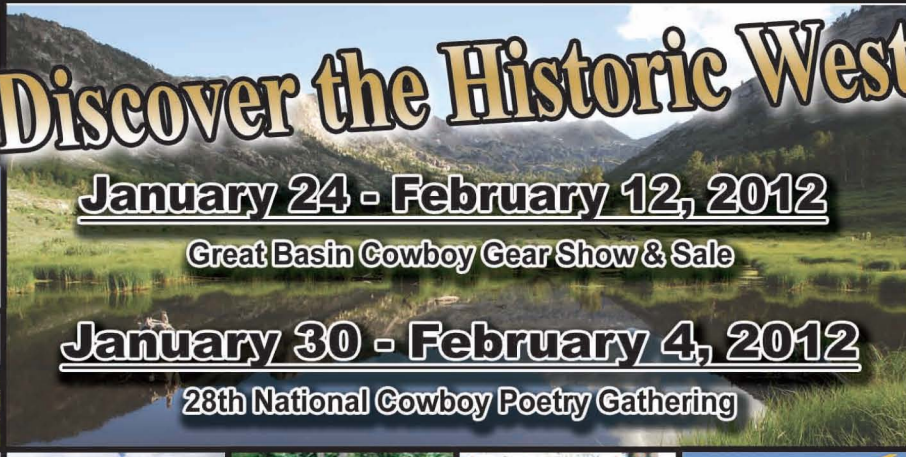
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A Jolly Good Fellowship

Vitaliy Shuptar spent a couple weeks in Nevada last autumn as part of the Legislative Fellows Program, which provides young professionals direct exposure to the United States political process. "To be honest, my program was unique," says Shuptar, who works in tourism in his native Kazakhstan. "That's because I wrote in my application about my interest in tourism and its development both on governmental and nongovernmental levels in the U.S."

The Nevada Commission on Tourism and *Nevada Magazine* were two of many American tourism entities Shuptar studied. Photos of downtown Reno (above) are just a few of the memories he took home with him. At left, Shuptar is photographed by his host, Carl Klug, at Fort Churchill State Historic Park. Visit nevadamagazine.com to read his story, "Pioneers of Nevada."

SHARE YOUR NEVADA

Send your favorite Nevada images to tony@nevadamagazine.com, subject line "Your Nevada," along with detailed caption info.

PHOTO BY VITALIY SHUPTAR